

### II

### PRACTICAL WIRELESS

May, 1961



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RMI RM2 RM3 RM4 RM5	Image: Mage:															
TERMS OF BUSINESS C.W.O. or C.O.D.OBSOLETE VALVES A SPECIALITY.2/9 PACKING CHARGE ON ALL C.O.D.OBSOLETE VALVES A SPECIALITY.ORDERS.POSTAGE 3d. PER VALVEONT LISTED.																

May, 1961

	PL82 8/-	VU39 6/	- 1 6C4	3/6	6X4	5/- 1	84	8/- 1	Cathode
Brand new, individually	PL83 7/9	VUI11 3/		61-	6X5GT	6/6	89	6/-	Ray Tubes
checked and guaranteed	PT25H 7/6	VX3138 12/	- 6C6G	4/3	6Y6G	8/- 8/-	210LF	3/-	5BPI 35/- 5CPI 42/6
VALVES	PX4 19/-	W3I 7/		5/- 4/6	6Z4 7C7	6/6	210VPT		5FP7 45/-
	PX25 9/- PY80 6/9	Y63 5/ Y66 8/		5/-	707	7/-	7 pin	2/6	7BP7 40/-
	PY81 7/-	Z3I 6/		7/-	777	5/-	705A	17/6	12DP7 60/-
4/- EB34 1/6 EY91 3/6 AL60 6/- EB91 3/9 EZ40 7/-	PY82 8/-	IA3 3/		4/-	7Y4	6/-	715B	97/6	CV1596
AP4 4/- EBC21 8/- EZ80 6/6	QP21 6/-	IA5GT 5/		6/6	7Z4	6/6	717A	8/6	(O9J) 55/-
AR8 51- EBC33 51- EZ81 619	QP25 5/3	IC5GT 7/		4/6	8D2	2/6	801	6/-	VCR97 15/-
ARDD5 2/- EBC91 3/9 FW4/500 6/6	Q\$75/20 6/9	ID8GT 6		3/-	9D2 12A6	3/- 5/-	803	22/6	VCR138 30/-
ARP3 3/- EC52 3/- GL450 10/-	Q\$95/10_6/9	IE7GT 7/		2/-	12AB	7/-	804	55/-	VCR139A 35/-
ARP4 3/6 ECC81 5/6 GZ32 9/-	QS108/45 6/9	IG6GT 12/		3/-	12AT7	5/6	805	30/-	VCRX258
ARP12 2/9 ECC82 6/6 HL23 6/- ARP21 5/6 ECC83 7/- HL23DD 8/-	QSI50/15	ILN5 4/		4/3	12AU7	61 -	807AM		(with scann-
ARP21 5/6 ECC83 7/- HL23DD 8/- ARP24 3/6 ECC84 7/- HL41DD 8/-	6/9	IR5 6	- 6J7	7/6	12AX7	7/-	807BR	7/- 5/-	ing coil 45/-)
ARP34 4/6 ECC85 7/9 HVR2 12/6	R3 8/-	155 5/		5/-	12C8	3/-	808	8/-	
ARTH2 7/- ECC91 4/- KF35 5/-	RIO 12/6	IT4 4		6/6	12E1	22/6		80/-	Photo
ATP4 2/9 ECL80 8/- KRN2A 19/-	REL21 25/-	2A3 8 2A5 8		2/3 4/9	12H6 12J5GT	3/6	810 811A	25/-	CMG8 9/-
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BL63 6/- EFSO 2/6 KT63 6/-	SP41 2/6	3A4 5		9/- 6/6	12SH7 12SJ7	3/- 6/-	829A 832	30/- 15/-	Special
BS4A 5/6 EF54 3/3 KT 11/-	SP61 2'-	3B7 5 3B24 3		4/6	123J7	4/_	832A	35/-	Valves
BT45 40/- EF55 6/- KTW62 7/6 BT83 22/6 EF70 4/- KTW63 6/6	STV280/40	3B24 3 3E29	6N7G	5/9	I2SL7	71-	843	7/6	2J31 45/-
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DX25 9/- EL91 7/6 PEN65 6/6	VR78 4/-	6AK7 8	/- 6SR7	6/6	77	6'-	9001	4/6	Current Production
E1232 17 5/6 EM80 8/- PEN220A 3/-	VR99 8/-		3 6SS7	6/- 8/-	78	7/- 6/3	9002	5/6	3J/170/E £35
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EADU 1/01 ETST 8/- FLOT /10 1/14/C 20/2 000C 2/0 1/14/C									
AND MANY OTHERS IN STOCK, INCLUDING CATHODE RAY TUBES AND SPECIAL VALVES. All U.K. Orders									
below 10'-, P. & P. 1'- over 10'-, 1'6; Order: ovor f2 P. & P. (ree. C.O.D. 2'- extra. Overseas Postage extra at cost. Transmitter/Receiver No. 22 2 Mc. BRAND NEW ORIGINAL SPARE R209 Reception Set. A 10-valve High-									
Transmitter/Receiver No. 22. 2 Mc.		FOR AR88							Receiver with
to 8 Mc, Built almost exactly as No. 19		ormers. Ist			facilitie	s for	receiving	R/T	(A.M. or F.M.)
set but much more economical in battery consumption. Complete in fully working		), 12/6 each				C.W.			1-20 Mc/s.
condition with power pack for 12 v.	of 6, 60/	,,							on miniature
Headgear and Microphone assembly and	i.F. Transf	ormers. Cr	ystal Load,	12/6	valves	and in	corporat	ing its	own vibrator
Key, £9.19.6. Carriage 15/	each.			L EN					a 6 v. battery
Telephone Handset. Standard G.P.O.	Plates esc 15/- each.	utcheons (fo	r D and	LF),					ed). The set m rod, open-
type, new, £1. P. & P. 1/6.		ype D), 10/-	each.		wire	r din	ole aerial	with	built-in loud-
Marconi SIGNAL GENERATOR. TF144G. 85 kc/s, 25 Mc/s. Made up to	Logging D	ial (for D and	d LF), 10/- 4	each.			phone		
new standard. £70 delivered free.	Filter Cho	kes (for D an	d LF), <b>22/6</b> (	each.	measu	emen	ts: Lengt	:h 12ii	n., width 8in.,
U.H.F. SIGNAL GENERATOR	Output Tr	ansformers (	for LF), 30/-	each.	depth	9in. '	Weight	23 Ib	s. in as new,
TYPE T.S.14. 3,200-3,370 Mc/s, power		rimmers (LF			tested	and g	uaranteed	cond	ition £23.10.0,
measuring range 20-200 mW, R.F.	Condenser	denser 3 x	+ μr, ε2.0	.0			eciai nea age £1.	upnor	ne and supply
output power -20 to -100 dbm below			). 2/6 each						lo 21 Fully
ImW. Power supply 115w A.C. Price	3 x .01 u	F (D and LF F (D and LF	), 2/6 each.						No. 21. Fully built for 6 v.
£15. Carriage 15/	RF Anten	na Inductor	s (D and	LF),					rk from A.C.
S.C.R. 522 Receivers (BC624) 100-156 Mc/s, without valves, 7/6. P. & P. 5/	7/6 each.				mains.	Input	90-260 v	. A.C.	, (Taps at 10 v.
H.T. Chokes made by Bendix Radio		insformers							ntly smoothed
(U.S.A.) 3 Henry's 0.600A D.C. 25 ohms	Small M	ica Conde	nsers. vai	nous	up to	10 a	mps wit	h me	ter indicating

H.T. Chokes made by Bendix Radio (U.S.A.), 3 Henry's 0.600A D.C. 25 ohms D.C. resistance 18,000 v. R.M.S. 60 cycle test, £1.12.6. P. & P. 6'-. Ditto 10 Henry's 250A D.C. 90 ohms resistance 1,500 v. R.M.S. 60 cycle test, 16'6. P. & P. 3'6. Carbon Inset Microphone, G.P.O. Type 2'6. P. & P. 1'-. Miniature Relays. Changeover 12-30 v. D.C. supply, 5 amps contacts, 5'-. P. & P. 2'-.

Pre-set Double Potentiometers. 2 x 3,000 ohms linear 4 w, 5/-. P. & P. 1/6. Vacuum Condenser. 32,000 v, 50pF,

Vacuum Condenser. 32,000 V, 30pr, 12/6. P. & P. 3/-, Laboratory Precision Variable Con-denser. Manufactured by General Radio Co., U.S.A. 50-1,500pf with micro metric drive and calibration chart. Overall disconting of one 90.9 V. The Parts (15 dimensions of case 9 x 8 x 7In. Price £15. Carriage 15/-.

values, 1/6 each.

values, 1/6 each. Instruction Manual for AR88D, £I. Specially Built Power Pack for TCS Receiver. 230 v. A.C. mains, including 6X5GT valve, £3.10.0. Carriage 5<sup>1</sup>-. Marconi CR-100 Communications Receiver. 60 kc/s-30 Mc/s with noise limiter. Completely reconditioned, £25. Carriage 26.

Imiter. Completely reconditioned, £25. Carriage 25<sup>7.</sup> T.C.S. Receivers. Made by Collins of U.S.A. In fully guaranteed working condition. 1.5-12 Mc/s. Line up: 12SA7 (1) 12SQ7 (1), 12A6 (2), 12SK7 (3). Power requirements 12 v. L.T., 225 v. H.T. £11.10.0. Carriage 12/6

P. C. RADIO LTD. 170 GOLDHAWK RD., W.12 Shepherds Bush 4946 up to 10 amps with meter indicating exact output voltage. Measurements: 12 x 9 x 10in. Price £8. Carriage and packing 15'-.

4

19 Set Owners. To increase output of your set 6 to 10 times use RF Amplifier No. 2 with built-in rotary converter for 12 v. input. Four 807 valves output. Simple connection with transmitter. Fully tested condition, £9.15.0, including necessary connectors and instructions. Carriage and packing 15'-.

AR 88's. Completely rebuilt with new TVC wiring. Type "D", £75; Type "LF", £70.

R109 Receivers. I.8-8.5 Mc/s working from 6 v. D.C. Complete with all valves and built-in speaker. In excellent, guaranteed working condition. £5.5.0. Carriage and packing 15'-.

# HARVERSON SURPLUS CO. LTD.

### HERE IT IS ! HARVERSON'S F.M. TUNFR KIT

At last a quality F.M. Tuner Kit at a price you can afford. Just look at these fine features, which are usually associated with equipment at twice the price!

- Philips F.M. Tuning Head. ★
- Guaranteed Non-drift.  $\star$
- Permeability Tuning.
- Frequency coverage 88-100 Mc/s.
- OA81 Balanced Diode Output.
- Two I.F. Stages and Discriminator.
- E.M.84 Magic Eye.
- Self powered, using a good quality, mains transformer and valve rectifier.
- Valves used ECC85, two EF80's, EM84 (Magic Eye) and EZ80  $\star$ (rectifier).
- Fully drilled chassis.
- Everything supplied, down to the last nut  $\star$ and bolt.
- Size of completed tuner  $8 \times 6 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  in.
- \* All parts sold separately.

Note:--- To show the chassis more clearly the attractive 8 x 3in. black and gold dial supplied with this kit, is not shown in the illustration.

### C.R.T. TESTER/REACTIVATOR



**TESTS** any tube without removal from set or carton.

\* REPAIRS tubes discarded for low emission.

\* MEASURES A.C. Volts, ★D.C. Volts, E.H.T.

The Radar Model 202 Tester-Reactivator the most comprehensive instrument of its type on the British Market.

(Complete with E.H.T. probel

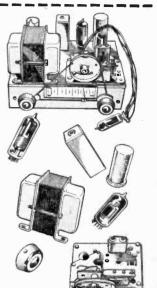
● Measures TRUE Beam Current ● Visual Indication when reactivating is complete (a Radar exclusive) ③ Tests and Measures ALL tube Voltages including E.H.T. (another ex-clusive) ④ Measures Resistance up to 100 Megohres ⑤ Clears leaks by pressing a button ④ Heater Current measurement 0-0.5A and 0-2.5A Linear Scale ③ Adjusts heater current to ensure accurate Emission Test ● Portable (or field or bench service) service.

### BRIEF SPECIFICATION

Tests: Filament Continuity, Heater Current, Inter-Electrode Insulation, Final Anode Beam Current, Heater-Cathode Leakage, 4-stage Reactivation by New Pulsing Method. Univer-sal socket fits all tubes. E.H.T. Probe. Measures: 0-25K Volts A.C., 0-500 Volts D.C., 0-25 kV., 0-100 Megohms. 0-250 microamp

200-250 Volts A.C. Mains. Size 13in. by 10in. by 6in. Weight 14lb.

List Price - OUR PRICE £17.17.0 Plus 9/- P. & P.



39/6

### Introducing **HARVERSON'S Monaural Amplifier Kit**

£4.19.6

PLUS 8/6 P.P. & Ins.

In response to numerous requests from delighted purchasers of our "SUPER STEREO KIT" we have produced a "MONAURAL AMPLI-FIER" on similar lines.

FIGH ON SIMILAR INES.  $\Rightarrow A$  UCL 82 valve provides a triode amplifying stage, and a pentode output stage (3 waits), enabling good amplification and sparkling repro-ductor to be combined with physical compactness (amplifier size, 7 x 3) x 01n, high).

★ Modern circultry design, good quality O.P. transformer (to match  $\star^{3\Omega}$ ) keep hum and distortion  $\pm 3\Omega$ ) keep hum and distortion to a low level.

\* The controls, volume on/off, and tone, are complete with attractive cream and gold knobs.

cream and gold knobs. # The amplifier has a built-in fully smoothed power supply. using a good quality mans transformer (A.C. mains only) and metal rectifier. # Ail you need is supplied including easy to follow instructions which guarantee good results for the begin-ner and expert. All components, leads. chassis, valve. knobs. etc., are first grade items by promi-nent manulacturers.

OUR PRICE Plus 4/6 Post and Packing, 39/6

5in. LOUDSPEAKER TO SUIT 14/6 EXTRA ALL PARTS SOLD SEPARATELY



May, 1961



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## HARVERSONS SUPER

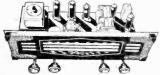
The product of a renowned maker, this stereo amplifier is composed of "ready-built" units, only requiring interconnection. This system has the advantage of being adaptable to fit any cabinet. Each unit is made from first-grade components, and valves used (ECL82, EZ40 range) are genuine Mullard. The comprehensive instructions supplied make the simple interconnection of units easy even for the novice.

### THE KIT COMPRISES ....

TWO MIDGET AMPLIFIERS each of 3W output, good reproduction from both your stereo or monaural records. Both amplifiers complete with well-designed O.P. transformers providing perfect matching 3-712 speakers, and have remote bass, treble and volume controls. Size  $5'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3''$  high (each amplifier).

CONTROL UNIT, is a flying panel with three 2-gang pots, enabling the bass, treble and colume controls of each amplifier to be conveniently positioned. Supplied with attractive cream and gold knobs.

### A.M. RADIOGRAM CHASSIS



A chassis of distinction, by a famous maker. Covering Long, Med. & Short Waves, plus gram position, this chassis (Size  $15\frac{1}{2} \times 7 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  in. high) incorporates the A.V.C., and negative feedback. Controls: Tone, Vol.- On/Off, W/Change (L.M.S. & Gram), Tuning. Tapped input 200-250 v. A Gram), Luning, Tapped input 200-200 v, A.C. only. An attractive brown and gold illuminated dial with matching knobs, make this one of the most handsome, in addition to being one of the best performing chassis yet offered. Complete with valves (ECH81, EF89, EBC81, EL84, EZ81), knobs, output transformer, leads etc. OUR PRICE ONLY **£9.19.6** £9.19.6 plus 4/6 post & packing.

GUARANTEED VALVES \* NEW and BOXED

SEPARATE POWER PACK with valve rectifier, midget size (5" x 2" x 34" high.)

ISOLATED MAINS TRANSFOR-MER of robust construction may be mounted independently.

VOLTAGE SELECTION PANEL. Fitted with the "valve base" type of mains /p selector and a channel output socket.

ONE SPEAKER, a quality 5-in. speaker. (Note: The 2nd speaker may be pur-chased from us for 14/6 extra.)

DC) e

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CREAM DOUBLE PUSH BUTTON SWITCH of neat design gives positive on/off switching.

INDICATOR LIGHT. Provides visual indication of equipment operating and is complete with gold-finished escutcheon

> PLUS 6/6 POST & PACKING E.M.I. 4 SPEED STEREO PLAYER

To suit the above £6.12.6

	A HEIL SUG DOVED	£0.12.0	
PROMPT DESPATCH	r Post 6d. per valve extra	Plus 5/- carr.	
ACHLODD EBL31 22/- ELS1	15/6 KTW61 6/-1PEN46 8/8 UBC41		
9/3 EC31 7/- ELS4	8/6 KTW63 7/- PEN38322/- UBF80		8/- 0FL: 13/- 04 58663 [12BE6 8/6 30L] 18/6
AC/P 7/- ECC81 7/6 EM84			6/3 GF1-0 13/- 16/- 120% 8/6 30P4 19/-
AC/P4 7/- ECC82 7/- EM80		10/- W77 8/- 5V4	10/9 6F17 11/9 6U50 8/-12E1 82/6 30P12 11/9
ACSPEN ECC83, 8/6 EM81		10/6 W729 9/8 5Y3Q	7/6 6F33 15/6 6U70 8/-12H6 3/3 30P16 9/-
DD 25/9 ECC84 9/3 EY51		15/6 X22 16/9 5Y3GT	7/6 6H6 £/8 6V6G 5/6 12.150T 2/9 30PLt 11/9
AC6PEN 6/- ECC85 9/- EY86	9/3 MS4B 16/- 25/- UCH42 9/3 MSP4/5 7/- PENA4 14/6 CCH81		8/6 6H6GT 2/3 6V6GT 7/3 12J7GT 10/- 35L6GT 9/3
ACVP1/59/3 ECF80 11/8 EZ40	9/3 MSP4/5 7/- PENA4 14/6 CCH81 7/- MSP4/7 7/- PM12M 7/6 UCL82	\$/9 X101M 11/6 5Z4M	9/6 6Jour 4/6 6X4 7/- 12K7GT 7/- 25Y5 9/3
ATP4 3/3 ECF82 12/3 EZ41		15/6 Y63 8/6 6A7	10/6 6J5M 6/- 6X5G 6/6 12K80113/- 35W4 7/-
AZ1 9/3 ECH21 22/- EZ80		11/6 Z21 9/9 6ANG	8/6 6J6 5/6 6X5GT 6/6 1207GT 7/- 35Z4GT 7/6
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CBL31 22/9 ECL80 9/3 E1148		8/8 1A.3 8/- 6AK5	6/- 6K7G 3/9 7B7 8/- 128J7 5/6 3575GT 9/8
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CL4 11/9 EF22 8/- PTE 1/2	0/ 3339 28/- 314// 8/8 11114	25/- 1A7GT 11/9 6AM5	11/9/6/K8G 7/- 7C5 7/6 128N7 7/6 50CD6G
	25/6 P61 3/3 TDD13C 7/- UL46	25/- 1C2 11/- 6AM6	4/8/6K6CT 6/6 7C6 7/6 PAL7CT 99/8
CY31 15/9 EF37A 14/- 0.200		S/0 105GT 11/9 6AQ5	7/-6K7GT 5/6 (D5 12/6) 14/- 50L8GT 8/-
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aural position reunites these into a quality push pull amplifier. The unit is self powered by an internal power-pack, employing valve rectifier and mains transformer. The latter has a tapped input (200-210, 220-230, and 240-250 volts A.C.50 cycles only) and is double wound, providing complete isolation from the mains. This enables the amplifier to be used in conjunction with any equipment in perfect offer. equipment in perfect safety.

equipment in perfect safety. Five controls are provided in addition to an on/off switch, VOLUME I, TONE I, STEREOPHONIC/MONAURAL switch, TONE 11, and VOLUME II. Both volume controls are calibrated to assist in securing perfect balance, and the tone controls are so designed that clockwise movement increases the treble response, whilst turning anti-clockwise causes the bass to predominate. The complete unit is mounted in a stylish hammer finished metal case, stove enamelled in glossy two tone grey and slate blue. The cabinet front panel is equipped with a white on/off switch, red indicator neon with goid escutcheon, cream and gold name The cabinet front panel is equipped with a white on/off switch, red indicator neon with goid escutcheon, cream and gold name The back are the stereo and monaural inputs, mains voltage selector, and loudspeaker terminals. Matching is provided for a 3 ohm and 15 ohm speaker, for each channel. This enables the use of a bass speaker and tweeter on each channel, provided that one speaker has 15 ohm and the other speaker has 3 ohm impedance. Unrepeatable at this price.

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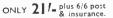
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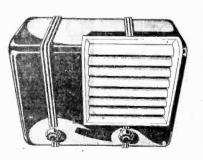
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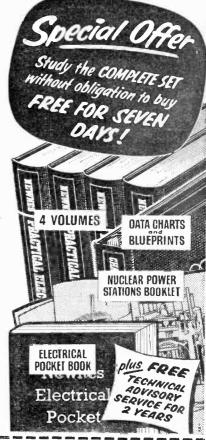
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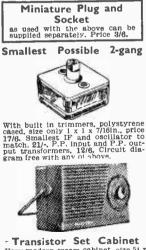
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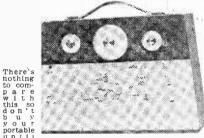
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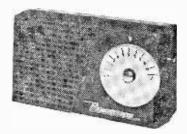
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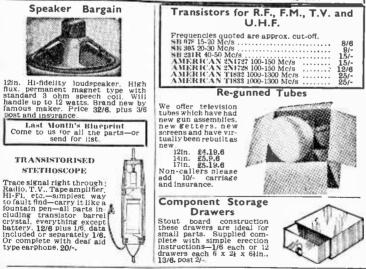
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EF85           9'.         EF85           10'6         EF89           9'.6         EF89           17'6         EF91           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           8'6         EF183           8'7         F'6           9'6         EF183           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           8'6         EF183           9'6         EL32           9'6         EL32           9'6         EL33           14'6         EL41           9'6         EL33           14'6         EL91           14'6         EL91</td><td>E DAY AS RECEIVEI TCE ACCEPTED UP TCE ACCEPTED UP TCE</td><td>D. TELEPHONE AND           TO 3.30 P.M.           U801 29/10         XFY12 9/6           U4020 16/7         XFY31 17/6           U4020 16/7         XFY31 17/6           U4020 16/7         XFY31 17/6           UABC4         9/-         XH(1.5) 6/6           UAF42 9/6         XSG(1.5) 6/6         UBF41         12/-           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         UBC81         8/6           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         UBC81         8/6         7/6           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         UBC81         17/6         UBC81         17/6           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         17/6         UBC81         17/7         17/6           UBC81         12/-         X77 4/6         UBF89 9/6         Z719 16/-         16/7         CG17         17/6           UCC84         14/7         7076354         27/7         4/6         1006656         10/6         10/6         10/6           UCF80         10/6         CA70 4/-         12/6         6.8         4/-         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7</td></td<>	SPATCHED         SAM           DELIVERY         SERV           DELIVERY         SERV           SI-EFSO(E)         SI-K           12'-EFS0(E)         SI-K           21'3         EF71           10'6         EF83           9'.         EF85           9'.         EF85           9'.         EF85           9'.         EF85           10'6         EF89           9'.6         EF89           17'6         EF91           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           8'6         EF183           8'7         F'6           9'6         EF183           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           15'.         EF97           8'6         EF183           9'6         EL32           9'6         EL32           9'6         EL33           14'6         EL41           9'6         EL33           14'6         EL91           14'6         EL91	E DAY AS RECEIVEI TCE ACCEPTED UP TCE	D. TELEPHONE AND           TO 3.30 P.M.           U801 29/10         XFY12 9/6           U4020 16/7         XFY31 17/6           U4020 16/7         XFY31 17/6           U4020 16/7         XFY31 17/6           UABC4         9/-         XH(1.5) 6/6           UAF42 9/6         XSG(1.5) 6/6         UBF41         12/-           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         UBC81         8/6           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         UBC81         8/6         7/6           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         UBC81         17/6         UBC81         17/6           UBC41         12/-         Y63 776         17/6         UBC81         17/7         17/6           UBC81         12/-         X77 4/6         UBF89 9/6         Z719 16/-         16/7         CG17         17/6           UCC84         14/7         7076354         27/7         4/6         1006656         10/6         10/6         10/6           UCF80         10/6         CA70 4/-         12/6         6.8         4/-         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7         10/7		
6A7 10/6 6Q7G 6/6 6A8G 9/- 6Q7GT 11/- 6A88 9/- 6R7G 10/- 6AC7 4/- 65A7GT 8/6 6AG5 5/6 6SC7 7/6 6AK5 8/- 6SG7GT 8/- 6AL5 4/- 65H7GT 8/-	125G7 7/- DD 12/6  EC54 125H7 8/6 AC6PEN 7/6  EC70 125J7 8/6 AC/TP 33/2  EC92 125K7 6/- ATP4 5/- ECG3 125K7 1/6  AZ1   18/7  ECC3 125K7 8/6  AZ3  10/-  ECC3	6'- EM84 10'6 12'6 EN31 37'- 13'3 EY51 9'- 12 5'6 EY83 16'7 13 8'6 EY84 14'- 14 24'7 EY86 9'-	PCC88 18/- TH2321 20/- PCC89 11/6 TP22 15/- PCF80 8/- TP25 15/- PCF82 10/6 TP2620 33/2 PCF84 16/7 TY86F 13/3 PCF86 15/- U12/14 8/6 PCL82 10/- U16 10/-	UU9         7/6         OC35         48/-           UY1N         18/7         OC44         26/-           UY21         13/11         OC45         23/-           UY41         7/6         OC65         22/6           UY85         7/-         OC66         25/-           VMS4B         15/-         OC70         14/-           VP2         12/6         OC71         14/-		
6AT6 7'- 6SL7GT 6'6 6AU6 10'- 6SN7GT 5'6 6AV6 12'8 6SQ7GT 9'- 6B8 5'- 6SS7GT 8'- 6BA6 7'6 6U4GT 12'6 6BG6G 23'3 6U7G 8'6	1457         27/10         B36         15'-1         ECC4           19AQ5         10'6         BL63         7'6         ECC8           19H1         10'-7         C1         12'6         ECC8           20D1         15'3         C1C         12'6         ECC8           20F2         26'6         CBL1         26'6         ECC8           20L1         26'6         CBL3         23'3         ECC8           20D1         26'6         CBL3         23'3         ECC8           20L1         26'6         CCH35         23'3         ECC8           20P3         23'3         CK506         6'6         ECC9	0 23/3 EZ40 7/- 1 6/- EZ41 7/- 2 6/6 EZ80 7/- 3 7/6 EZ81 7/- 3 7/6 EZ81 7/- 5 8/6 FC13 26/6 8 18/- FC13 26/6 1 5/6 FW4/500 8/6	PCL83 10/6 U18/20 8'6 PCL64 12/6 U22 8'7 PCL85 16/7 U24 29'10 PENA4 12/6 U25 17/11 PENB4 26'6 U26 10'- PEN40D U31 9'6 26'6 U33 26'6 PEN25 4'6 U35 26'6 PEN25 4'6 U35 26'6	VP4         15/-         OC72         17/-           VP28         14/6         OC73         20/-           VP48         23/3         OC75         15/-           VP13C         7/-         OC76         15/-           VP28         6/6         OC77         21/-           VP33C         6/6         OC77         21/-           VP41         6/-         OC78         17/-           VR105         8'-         OC81         18/-           VR150         7/6         OC170         35/-           VT61A         5/-         OC205         54/-		
6BQ7A 15'- 6X4 5'- 6BR7 23'3 6X5GT 6'- 6BS7 25'- 6'30L2 10'- 6BW6 8'6 7A7 12'6 6BW7 6'- 7B6 21'3 6BX6 6'- 7B7 3'6 6C4 5'- 7C5 8'-	2015 2313 CV63 1016 ECF63 2546G 1016 CY1 1877 ECH3 2516GT 101- CY31 1677 ECH3 2525G 101- D1 37- ECH3 25254G 916 D15 1076 ECH4 2525 916 D63 55- FCH8 2526G 101- D77 47- ECH8 2525U 11 DAC32 10 6 ECH4	2 10/6 GU50 27/6 3 26/6 GZ30 9/- 21 23/3 GZ32 10/- 35 6/6 GZ33 19/11 42 9/- GZ34 14/- 31 9/- GZ34 14/- 33 13/11 H63 12/6 10 9/- HABC80	251- U43 97- PEN44 26'6 U45 97- PEN45 19'6 U50 6'6 PEN45DD U52 6'6 26'6 U54 19'11	X6IM 26/6 TS3 15/-		
6C6 6/6 7H7 8/- 6C9 13/6 7H7 12/6 6C10 9/- 757 9/6 6CD6G 36/6 7V7 8/6 6CH6 9/- 7Y4 7/6 6D3 19/11 8D2 3/6 6D6 6/6 8D3 4/6 6E5 12/6/98/W6 15/3	30FL1         10'-         DET25         7/6         EF22           30L1         8'-         DF33         10'6         EF36           30L15         11'6         DF66         15'-         EF37/           30P4         12'-         DF91         31'6         EF36           30P12         7'6         DF96         8'6         EF40           30PL1         10'6         DF97         9'-         EF41	23 19/3 HL2 7/6 23/3 HL23DD 7/6 14/- HL41DD 4/- HL41DD 5/6 19/3 15/- HN309 24/7 9/- HVR2 20/- 10/6 HVR2 4/7	4020 33/2 U251 14/- PL33 19/3 U281 19/11 PL36 12/- U282 22/7 PL38 26/6 U301 23/3 PL81 10/6 U329 14/- PL82 7/6 U339 16/7 PL83 9/- U403 16/7 PL83 9/- U403 16/7	×63         9'-         TS4         24'-           ×65         12'6         XA101         23'-           ×66         12'6         XA102         26'-           ×76M         14'-         XA102         26'-           ×78         23'3         XA104         18'-           ×79         23'3         XA104         18'-           ×109         17'3         XB103         14'-           ×109         17'3         XB103         10'-           ×FG1         18'-         ×C101         16'-		
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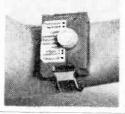
highly awa. "LISBOW" design. This is a pocket 2-stage transistor set not much larger than a matchhox. Excen-lent clear reception covering al-medium waves and working for --d working of a tiny 15 or 3 medium waves and working for mouths and months of a time 14 or 3 volt battery costing only 3(d. A very simple set to build and an excellent introduction to transistor circuitry. Everything can be supplied down to the last unit and boit including SIMPLE AS A.B.C. PICTORIAL SIMPLE AS A.B.C. PICTORIAL SIMPLE AS A.B.C. PICTORIAL 19/6, plus post and (C.O.D. 2/- extra), and packing 1/6 Parts . Jd separately, priced parts list 1/-.



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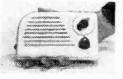
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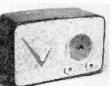
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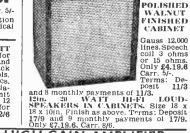
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ALPHA         EF91(BVA)         KT61         13/6         TH30C         5'.         VP23         6/6         SV4         11/6         6F15         14'.         6XSGT         7'.         12SL7         8'.           9'.         KTW61         6/6         TP22         10'.         VR105/308'.         SY3GT         7/6         6/3DL2         12/6         12SL7         8'.         6/3SCT         5'.         6/3DL2         7'.6         6/3SL2         7'.6         6/3SL2         7'.6         8'.         2/5AS         7'.6         6/3SL2         7'.6         8'.         2/5AS         7'.6         8'.         2/5L6GT         10'.         10'.6         12/16         8'.6         10.7         12/16         8'.6         6/6         7.7         12/2SL7         8'.         2/5L6GT         10'.         2/5L6GT         10'.         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6         10'.6
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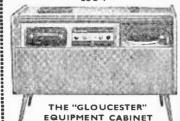
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Editorial and Advertisement
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### **"ROADFARER"** THE **COMPETITION**

S announced in the Editorial of the previous issue, prizes are to be offered for the best constructed "Roadfarer" receivers. This competition has been organised in conjunction with several manufacturers and a panel of judges has been formed from representatives of those firms whose products are used in the receiver, and, in judging the competition, the neatness and soundness of the constructional work will be taken into account.

Further details of the competition are given on page 85 and the rules and conditions of entry are clearly set out below.

### **RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

1. There is no entrance fee.

2. The set must be the unaided work of the entrant and be built to the design given in *Practical Wireless* with the specified components.

3. No sets are to be submitted for examination until an announcement to this effect is made in Practical Wireless; intending entrants should complete the coupon published in the April or May issues of Practical Wireless.

4. Each set will remain the property of its constructor and although all reasonable care will be taken of entries while they are in the hands of the Committee, no responsibility can be accepted for any loss or damage.

5. The decision of the Committee in all matters related to the Competition shall be final.

6. Employees of George Newnes Limited and associated companies are not eligible to enter the Competition.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

"HOSE of our readers who wish to submit articles should send them direct to the Editor at the address given on this page. Manuscripts should be typewritten with double spacing although legible hand-written articles are also acceptable. Articles should be between 1.000 and 2,000 words in length, be written on one side of the paper only, and deal with the home construction of items of radio and electronic equipment. We do not require articles of a theoretical nature unless these are written expressly for the amateur constructor. Clear drawings of the apparatus should be included with the article and need only be sufficient for our draughtsmen to prepare suitable illustrations. We also like to include with articles photographic illustrations. Large clear prints, or preferably negatives, should be sent if possible but we are prepared to take the necessary photographs ourselves if the apparatus can be sent to us for inspection. An illustrated article is always of more appeal as the methods of construction are shown more clearly.

Our next issue, dated June, will be published on May 5th.

May, 1961

Round the World of Wireless

POTENTIAL AND CURRENT NEWS

### **Broadcast Receiving Licences**

THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of January, 1961, in respect of wireless receiving stations situated within the various Postal Regions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The numbers include Licences issued to blind persons without payment.

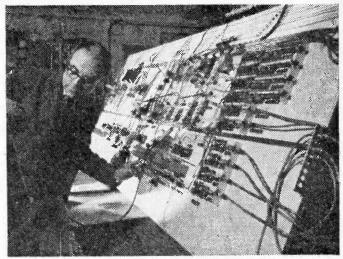
Region London Postal Home Counties Midland North Eastern North Western South Western Wales and Border (		•••	 Tota' 707,932 664.350 485,231 532,269 460,170 398.307 236,717
Total England and Scotland Northern Ireland	Wales		 3,484,976 392,287 119,885
Grand Total		6.6	 3,997,148

### **Electronic Telephone Switching**

RESEARCH work on electronic telephone switching has been carried out in the G.E.C.'s Hirst research centre laboratories at Wembley, since the late 1940's. By 1955 the stage had been where the model reached electronic exchange, "Andrew established the basic had feasibility of the time division multiplex technique as a basis for telephone switching.

More recently particular emphasis is being placed on system security, that is to say the ability of the exchange to continue to give service in the presence of component faults. Every effort is also being made to make the system simple in order to keep down cost and to facilitate maintenance and understanding of the operation of the exchange. On the component and circuit side the laboratories have established techniques in which full use of transistors is achieved.

The work of the electronic switching laboratories includes the design of models of a transistorised speech switching network and magnetostriction delay lines which are used for pulse generation and storage. Final engineering of the circuits for production is undertaken in the development laboratories at Coventry.



Here adjustments are being made to the typical experimental apparatus used by the Electronic Switching Group in the development of electronic telephone switching networks at the G.E.C. laboratories at Wembley.

### Oxford University Study of Recruitment to Higher Technological Education

THE University of Oxford Department of Education led by its director, Mr. A. D. C. Peterson. is to investigate the reasons for comparatively fewer students electing to read for technological qualifications in this country than in the U.S.A. and Russia. This research, which will occupy a period of two years, has been made possible by a grant of £2.500 to the University from the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute of Washington. D.C., through their International Division, C.R.E.I. (London).

Commenting on the grant. Mr A. F. R. Cotton, Managing Director for International Operations for C.R.E.I, said: "There is a feeling that some of the best brains in the country are being kept out of technology by the academic nature of grammar school curricula.

"This, and the tendency to regard technological studies as being more suitable for less able pupils, could cripple Britain in the world race for highly qualified technologists by closing the doors in this field to the most talented young men in the country. The Oxford University Department of Education is setting out to test both these theories and to compare secondary school curricula in England and Wales with those in the U.S.A., Russia, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and France."

The Capitol Radio Engineering Institute, as well as running a residential school in electronic engineering technology in Washington, are pioneers of home study courses in advanced technological subjects, including n u cle a r engineering. These courses are now available in the U.K. and Europe. Students in Britain include serving officers and men of the Royal Air Force.

### Intercommunications Contract

ULTRA ELECTRONICS LTD. have received a contract to supply their UA60 intercom equipment for the Westland P.531 aircraft being supplied to the Army Air Corps.

The value of the contract. which covers forty sets of equipment, is approximately £21.000.

Delivery of the equipment will commence this summer.

### Plastics at Radio Components Exhibition

THE Ekco Plastics stand at the 1961 Radio and Electronic Components Exhibition, Olympia (30th May-2nd June), will

22

feature the Company's extensive moulding service to the industry, which started nearly 30 years ago with the production of the first Ekco radio cabinets.

The use of plastics to enhance the styling of radio receivers is exemplified by a selection of the latest radio cabinets in a variety of colours, tuning scales, control knobs, etc. The back cover and front of the latest Ekcovision portable receiver represents the increasing application of plastics in television receiver design, while escutcheons, television tube masks and implosion screens will also be featured.

Plastic components also fill vital roles in the chassis of modern receivers, and the representative selection of such mouldings in the Ekco display includes coil formers, terminal blocks, transformer housings, etc.

### **Radar Fault Locator on Show**

THE A.C. radar fault locator made by Ferranti Ltd., was on show to Britain's electrical engineers for the first time at the Electrical Engineers' Exhibition at Earls Court in March.

The prototypes have been tried by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board, both of whom assisted in their development.

The locator has been designed to detect the position of arcing faults, ice build-up and conductor oscillation on 132 and 275kVtransmission lines, although it can also be used for higher or lower voltages.

The prototypes were installed at Fort Augustus and Clydesmill Power Station. near Glasgow, and were successful in locating a number of faults. Two of the arcing faults which took place at Clydesmill were identified to within a span. An arcing fault caused by lightning was recorded at Fort Augustus.

The Ferranti fault locator operates on the radar principle of pulse reflection, the reflection being caused by any fault which may be caused by a flashover or to ice build-up on the line. The reflected pulses are received by the locator and displayed on a cathode ray tube for visual or automatic photographic record. The distance to the fault is found by measuring the time interval between the sending of the pulse and reception of its reflection.

### Radar Defence Order from Sweden

THE Royal Swedish Air Board has placed a further contract to the value of over £1,700,000 with Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd., for the supply of secret electronic equipment for their air defence system. This follows substantial orders placed in 1959.

The twin problems which face any defence organisation are those of range of operation and warning time. The Swedish Air Force is powerfully equipped with fast fighters and surface-toair missiles, but to use these effectively means must be found of collating relevant information and arriving at swift decisions.

At the centre of the Marconi system is a very high speed computer which solves a large number of interception problems simultaneously and enables the weapons — fighters, defence guided missiles and other defensive devices-to be brought into action at precisely the right instant. Black and white television and colour projection together with automatic information-dissemination techniques also play a vital part in the overall system. Approximately 500,000 transistors and diodes and 15,000 valves are incorporated in the equipment.

From the information bank the data are fed to the synthetic displays at positions manned by controllers and executive officers, who, by pressing buttons, can see the category of information they require—for example, hostiles, unengaged hostiles, all aircraft above a certain height, and so on. The constitution or number of aircraft is obtained from a special display nicknamed the "Magic Carpet" where the radar picture shows the numerical composition of a formation. The targets displayed for analysis are presented automatically in a "queue".

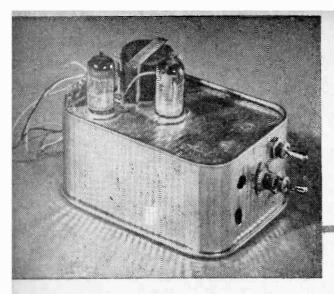
### Analogue Computer

THIS 112-amplifier computor, made by Short Brothers and Harland Ltd. is designed to cope with the steady increase in the size and complexity of problems being encountered in engineering research and development. It incorporates all the automatic aids necessary to ease the handling of complicated problems, including those of nuclear kinetics.

Important features of Simlac are its new wiring techniques and a revolutionary patching system which completely eliminates cord clutter. The flexible selector system and associated problem check are unrivalled in the analogue computer field.

The computer consists of seven standard racks containing the electronic equipment. The three central racks being fronted by a double pedestal desk. The twin racks on either side of the central block are identical in construction and contain the computing elements. By plugging specified components into these racks the design of the basic Simlac can be varied to meet an individual customer's requirements.





# THE P.W.

### ADDING THE R.F. GENERATOR TO THE AUDIO MODULATOR UNIT

HIS chassis (No. 2) should have been completed to the stage shown in Figs. 5 and 6 (last month). Before proceeding this stage should be coupled up to the power unit (chassis No. 1) and 'phones connected to the output plug to check that the unit is in working order. Note that the heater circuit of V5 should have been wired and tested —pins 4/5, and 9 (see "Wiring and progressive testing" on page 1106 of the April issue).

### Mounting the Components

The variable condenser is mounted to one side of the chassis, on top, as in Fig. 9. The condenser must open in such a way that it will not foul the coils to be mounted later. Any type of condenser with air spacing is suitable provided it is not too large for the available space. When mounted, check with a meter or torch bulb and battery that the fixed (stator) vanes are not shorted to the moving vanes at any part of their travel.

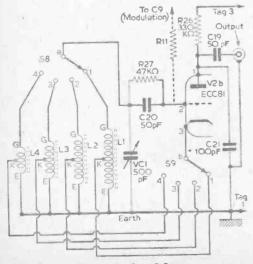


Fig. 7 .- The circuit of the R.F. generator.

### Making the Coils

The type of former required is shown in Fig. 8. All windings are carried out with 32s.w.g. copper wire, enamelled and new. Salvaged wire is unsuitable and must not be used. As each coil is completed, the turns are fixed with polystyrene cement.

### Winding L4 (Fig. 8)

Leave about a foot of wire to spare and fasten it temporarily by one of the holes at the base (these are not used for connections) and wind on eight turns exactly, side by side starting almost at the bottom of the former. Now stretch the wire out for about 4in. and double it back again, and twist it together tightly near the coil. Now continue to wind another eight turns in the same direction. Then, wind the wire round a few more times about 4in. further up the former. Now fix the winding with cement and allow it to dry overnight; then remove the extra turns.

### Winding L3

This is carried out in the same way as L4 but 40 turns are wound on, side by side, each side of the centre tap (see Fig. 8).

### Winding L2

This coil has more turns than L4 and L3 and the winding technique is therefore different. The turns of this coil (and those of L1) are not wound side by side but in a manner known as "pile winding". Coil L2 consists of 200 turns with a centre tap. Each half of the winding is wound over a length of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. When winding the two parts of this coil, wind more turns in the centre of each  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. length than at the ends—as shown clearly in Fig. 8. As in the case of L3 and L4, the two halves of the winding must be wound in the same direction; the second half forms a continuation of the first.

When winding is completed, cement the turns together as for L3 and L4.

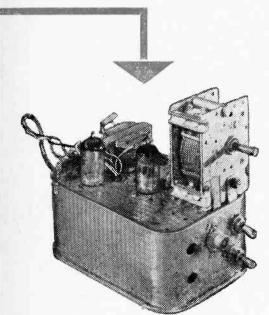
### Winding LI

Mark the former about lin. up from the bottom and proceed as for L2 but wind on 460 turns either side of the tap. Cement as before.

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

# SIGNAL GENERATOR

By E. V. King (Continued from page 1109 of the April issue)



### **Continuity** Check

Scrape the enamel from the ends E and G of each coil and test them for continuity using a meter or battery and lamp. The battery voltage will have to be greater in the case of L1 as the resistance of the wire is fairly high.

The R.F. range switch is fitted as indicated in Fig. 10 with VR4 underneath it. These, however, are not used until later. The coils are now made up (Fig. 8) and L1 is mounted in position as shown in Fig. 9. To do this, two small screws are used from underneath. The coil positions are not unduly critical.

### Wiring the Oscillator Stage

The completed circuit is shown in Fig. 7. Feedback is via the cathode and grid, and the tuned circuit is L1. 2, 3 or 4. The values of C20 and R27 will give good results from 150kc/s to 20Mc/s

### COMPONENTS LIST (to be added to Chassis No. 2)

25

Additional parts C9 47pF (formerly 500pF) R11 IM ¼W (formerly 100k) Valve (V2) is already fitted (ECC81)

### Switch

S8/R R.F. range switch: two-pole, four-way rotary type

Coils

L1, 2, 3, 4, are made up on formers as shown in Fig. 8.  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of 32s.w.g. enamelled copper wire will be required. The four formers required are  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and  $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter. No cores are required Variable condenser (VCI), 500pF max., air spaced. Single gang—any type which is small and the blades of which do not foul the coil formers when mounted as indicated (Fig. 9) R26 330k  $\frac{1}{4}$ W R27 47k  $\frac{1}{4}$ W C19 mica or ceramic 50pF C20 mica or ceramic 50pF

C21 mica or ceramic 100pF

and should not be altered. If low emission valves are used the value of R26 may have to be reduced. It should always be as high as possible or the oscillations tend to be distorted (not pure sine waves).

Unsolder R11 from the output socket (see Fig. 6 last month) and leave it "in the air" for now. Refer to Fig. 10 and note that only additional wiring is shown for clarity. Wire C21 from pin 1 (valve V2b) to chassis, and from the same tag, R26 to the unused tag on the tag strip tag 3—eventually it will be connected to tag 3 of the

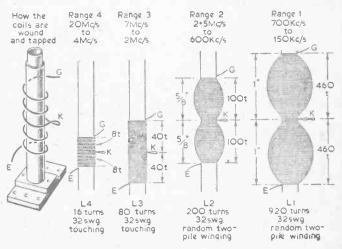


Fig. 8.—The coil winding details.

power unit. Solder R27 and C20 to pin 2 and join them together at the other ends.

The coil L1 is now wired as follows and not as in Fig. 10note<sup>i</sup> that the switch is not wired at all yet. Slip sleeving over the top lead (G) and wire it to the junction of the grid condenser and leak (R27, C20); then verify that three wires are soldered together at this point. Take the bottom lead of the coil (E) and solder it directly to the top of the chassis. Sleeving is not essential here. Clean the tap on the coil, tin the wires and solder an insulated wire to them which is then connected to pin 3 of the valve being wired. Make sure that both leads at the tap were tinned and soldered together. Now solder а temporary condenser of 50 to 500pF from the junction of R27, C20, L1 to chassis.

### **Testing for Oscillation**

Connect the unit to the power pack and wire a milliammeter in the lead from tag 3 of the power pack to tag 3 of this unit. Switch on, and the current reading should be about 0.7mA. Now using an insulated screwdriver, short the junction

or screwdriver, short the junction of R27, C20 and G of the coil to earth. The anode current will now rise by a value of 0.01 or 0.02mA to give a reading greater than before, if the valve is oscillating. If the current does not alter, the unit is not working and the fault must be investigated. If no meter is available then you must assume for the time being that the unit is oscillating.

### Varying the Frequency of Oscillation

The unit will be oscillating at a frequency of about 700kc/s if the temporary condenser fitted is only 50pF or at about 150kc/s if it is 500pF. Remove the temporary condenser and then con-

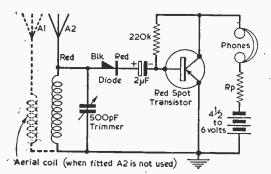


Fig. 11.—The circuit of a crystal diode receiver suitable for testing the R.F. section.

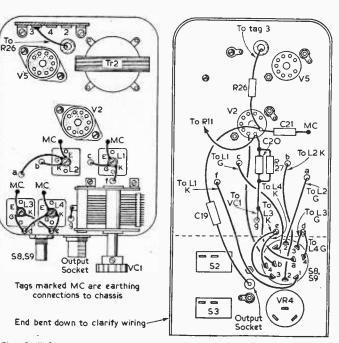


Fig. 9 (left).—Above-chassis layout of the R.F. generator—the audio modulator section is not shown wired.

Fig. 10 (right) .- The underchassis wiring.

nect the stator vanes of VC1 (already tested) through a hole in the chassis (using insulated wire) to the junction of R27, C20 and G of L1. Four wires are now joined at this position. VC1 is now tuning the inductance L1 and the frequency of oscillation will be variable from about 150kc/s to 600kc/s.

### Second Check

A meter is wired as previously described in the H.T. lead to tag 3 of the power unit. Verify that in all positions of VC1 there is the required rise in anode current when G of coil is shorted to earth as before. Verify that the actual increase in current is more when the condenser is fully closed (about 0.06mA rise on shorting G) than when it is fully out (about 0.01 or 0.02mA rise on shorting G). Also, as the vanes are moved from the open position to the closed position the current drawn by the valve falls from about 0.77mA to 0.72mA. The actual current drawn does not matter, but the fact that it falls as the vanes are moved in does show that the valve is oscillating.

### Modulating the R.F. Wave

The resistor R11 which was disconnected earlier may now be wired to pin 2 of V2 as indicated in Fig. 10. Note carefully that the values of R11 and and C9 have to be changed to those given in the list of components on page 25.

Condenser C19 must now be wired from pin 1 of V2 to the output socket (see Fig. 10).

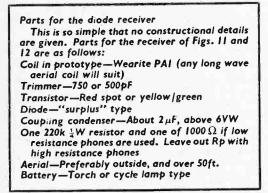
### **Testing the Modulation**

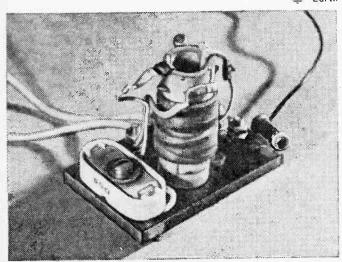
Preliminary tests may be made by connecting 'phones to the output socket. With S3 switched on (Fig. 4 last month), the modulation note should be heard faintly independent of the position of the variable condenser. However, if the R.F. section is not oscillating, no mixing will occur, but the note will still be audible, the valve acting as an amplifier. Further tests follow.

### **Testing on a Receiver**

Use any TRF receiver which will receive long waves. A superhet is not really suitable as spurious oscillations will make tests very difficult. If a TRF receiver is not available then a small and cheap transistor/diode receiver can be made up quickly. Selectivity is not important at this stage and long waves only are required. A dual coil could be fitted for testing other ranges of the oscillator.

The circuit of a suitable receiver is shown in Fig. 11. A suitable layout is shown in Fig. 12.





The crystal alode receiver-constructed on a paxolin chassis.

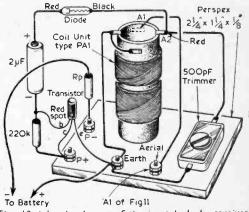
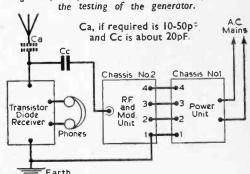


Fig. 12 (above).—Layout of the crystal diode receiver. (The collector of the transistor is indicated either by a spot of paint near to it or by wider spacing from the middle wire, which is the base. The remaining wire is the emitter.

Fig. 13 (below).-The interconnections required for



The units are wired as shown in Fig. 13 for the test. If an ordinary receiver is used the wiring is the same. If the receiver is sensitive then the aerial need only be short, if insensitive it must be long. Ca may be necessary for reasonable selectivity if a long aerial is used on very simple receivers.

Only sufficient power is required from the aerial for the long wave Light Programme to be heard very faintly. Any other Long Wave Station may be used if Droitwich reception is poor, e.g. Paris on 128kc/s.

### **Testing Procedure**

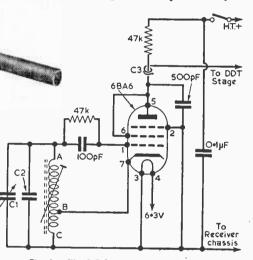
Tune the receiver to L.W. Light Programme (200kc/s). Connect as shown in Fig. 13. If an A.C./D.C. receiver is used the receiver itself must not be earthed.

(Continued on page 47)

### Power Supplies

The unit described uses a 6BA6, but any miniature octal-based or other H.F. pentode will be satisfactory. A triode can also be used instead, if to hand. This valve requires 6:3V at 0:3A for its heater, and this is drawn from the 'receiver heater circuit. In some receivers, heaters may be fed from a centre-tapped transformer. If this is so, take pin 3 to the other side of the heater circuit, instead of to chassis.

The extra heater current should normally be available without difficulty. If the B.F.O. will only be used very occasionally, a switch may be included in the heater circuit. But it is usual to leave the B.F.O. stage heater permanently in



# A Compact Add-in B.F.O. Unit

### A SIMPLE ONE-VALVE STAGE

By J. Barrat

N the usual type of superhet C.W. Morse is not audible, as a beat frequency oscillator is necessary for C.W. reception. Such an oscillator is always provided in a communications receiver, but is not normally fitted in ordinary all-wave or similar receivers. A beat frequency oscillator can, however, be added, and the B.F.O. described here is for this purpose.

A C.W. signal is an unmodulated radiofrequency wave. After detection, it does not in itself produce any audible tone, though it may be manifest as a rapid, intermittent clicking. The C.W. signal, as obtained from the receiver intermediate frequency stage, will be at intermediate frequency. The B.F.O. is tuned a little to one side of this frequency, and its output is mixed with the C.W. signal. As a result, an audio tone is produced when the C.W. is present.

As example, assume the receiver 1.F. is 465kc/s. If the B.F.O. is tuned to 466kc/s, the frequency difference will be 1kc/s, or 1.000 cycles per second, so an audio note of this frequency will be heard. The B.F.O. might equally well be tuned to 464kc/s. In practice, the B.F.O. stage is usually tunable over a narrow band. This allows the audio note to be adjusted at will, and sometimes allows better reading through interference.

Fig. 1.—The B.F.O. stage circuit diagram.

circuit, so that the B.F.O. can be switched on at once by means of the H.T. switch shown.

With A.C./D.C. sets having heaters in series, the B.F.O. valve heater must be of the same current rating as other heaters.

current rating as other heaters. The small H.T. current required also comes from the receiver. If the H.T. line voltage, or

supply point, is over 200 or so, the 47k anode resistor can be increased to 100k.

C1 is a panel operated trimmer, to modify the note, and select upper or lower beat frequencies. A value of about 25pF to 50pF is generally satisfactory. If the B.F.O. cannot be mounted near the receiver panel, this condenser is operated through an extension spindle. C2 is fixed. and allows the B.F.O. coil to tune to the receiver intermediate

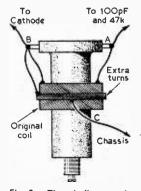


Fig. 2.—The windings on the B.F.O. coil.

28

13

10 1

-,1

frequency when C1 is about half closed. C3 in Fig. 1 is a very small capacity, formed by looping an insulated lead round the anode connection.

### B.F.O. Coil

Any coil tunable to the receiver I.F. is suitable. This may be from a disused I.F. transformer, or may be an ordinary aerial or oscillator coil which will tune to the intermediate frequency. A coil with an adjustable core is handy, as this allows easy setting of the frequency.

The B.F.O. coil has a few extra turns added, as in Fig. 2. The end of this

in Fig. 2. The end of this additional winding goes to chassis. The junction of the original winding and additional winding forms the cathode tap **B**. The extra turns must be in the same direction as those on the original coil, and about 4 turns will generally be satisfactory. If the coil has aerial couplings or other windings, these are ignored.

Many receivers have an I.F. of about 465kc/s. This is about 645m. Some medium-wave coils will reach this, with a 500pF condenser for C2 which should be a silver mica condenser. For a coil with more turns, or an I.F. transformer winding, C2 will be less than 500pF. If the I.F. transformer winding were intended for the same frequency as the receiver, the fixed condenser already fitted will, of course, be correct.

### **B.F.O.** Layout

Fig. 3 shows the unit built upon a chassis 4in.  $x 2in. x 1\frac{1}{2}in.$ The coil can be mounted on the top. back, or either side runner, so that it can be reached easily when the unit is installed in the receiver.

A chassis this size can be made by bending  $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. flanges on a piece of aluminium 7in. x 5in. Leave extra to form flanges to bolt to the receiver chassis, or use small angle brackets for this. The side plates of the unit are then 4in. x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. When completed and fixed to the chassis, the whole is screened. This is recommended, or harmonics of the B.F.O. frequency will be heard at multiples of about 464kc/s or 466kc/s.

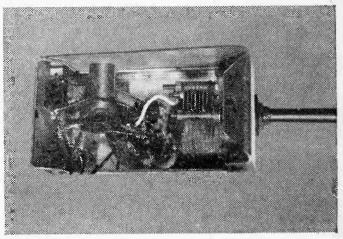
### Connections

Wiring should be reasonably short and direct. Leads are provided as in Fig. 3, to connect to the receiver power circuits. The most suitable position for the unit is near the double-diodetriode stage of the receiver.

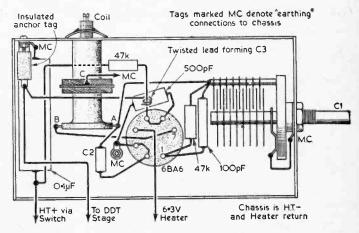
The unit should be tested before permanently bolting it in place. The lead marked "to DDT

stage" is taken to the detector diode. It should be noted particularly that a very strong signal from the B.F.O. is not wanted, as this will reduce sensitivity. Coupling may, therefore, be quite loose. For C3, a 1 or 2-turn loop should do. Coupling may be sufficient if the lead to the DDT stage is similarly looped round the detector diode connection. This depends on the receiver circuit, and H.T. voltage used with the B.F.O.

To adjust initially, tune in any ordinary programme on the receiver. Switch the B.F.O. on, and adjust C1, or the coil core, or both, until an



Above is shown the under-chassis wiring—details of which are given in Fig. 3 (below)—of the prototype unit.



audio oscillation is heard. If possible, adjust the coil core so that zero beat comes with C1 about half closed. If this is not possible, the value of C2 may need changing.

A fairly weak signal should then be tuned in, and the coupling into the DDT stage modified for maximum results. This coupling is not critical, (Continued on page 47)

# Servicing All-Dry and ine Mains/Battery Portables

### A FAULT-FINDING GUIDE

ASICALLY there is virtually no difference between servicing "all-dry" and "mains/battery" portables and standard mains-operated receivers. Nevertheless, portables require extra care during the course of servicing to avoid damaging the relatively delicate valve filaments. Moreover, they also tend to develop faults which are only Moreover. characteristic to receivers using 1.4V valves.

### **All-dry Receivers**

The circuit diagram of a typical all-dry receiver is given in Fig. 1. This uses four valves in a conventional superhet circuit. V1 is the frequency-changer, V2 the I.F. amplifier, V3 the detector and A.F. amplifier and V4 the output valve. In this particular receiver the valves are of the very low consumption type.

The current range of 1.4V valves show a major advance over the former ranges. They employ the B7G base, and have filament consumptions as low as 25mA at 1.4V. These valves are used extensively in present-day valve portables, and owing to their low filament power can work on batteries at least half the capacity (and size) of those required in the older portable. The filaments

By G. J. H	Cing
------------	------

are connected either in series or parallel, requiring a 7.5V or 1.5V L.T. battery, and in the circuit of Fig. 1 the filaments are all connected in parallel. The output valve, V4, will be seen to have a tapped filament. When the battery is connected across each section, as the circuit shows, the consumption of that particular valve is 50mA. However, if the two sections were connected in series (ignoring the tap), it would then take 25mA at 2.8V. The series method is invariably adopted in mains/battery versions. These very low con-sumption valves are designated DK96, DF96, DAF96, DL96, etc. In spite of the filament power difference between the various 1.4V valves there is hardly any difference in circuit design among receivers using the different valves. One practical difference, however, is that in most modern receivers a ferrite rod aerial is used instead of the frame aerial of earlier receivers.

### No Signais

This is a common symptom with this type of set. The first action should be to establish whether the circuits appear to be "live". One way of doing this is to hold an ear close to the loud-

Mullard DAF96 Mullard DL96

	COMPO	NENTS LIST	for Fig. I	L4	L.W. Loading (	- Ioil	
• •				LS	-		
- · ·		Resistors	-	L6	A.W. Oscillato	r Coll	1
RI	27k	R6	IM	L7			
R2	33k	R7	4.7M	L8	L.W. Oscillator	' Coil	
• R3	33k	R8	6.8M	L9	5.		
R4	2·2M	R9	2.2M	Lío	> Ist I.F. Transfo	rmer	
R5	4.7M	RIO	560 Ω	ĒŬ	{		
VRI	IM poten		-law with D.P.	LI2	>2nd I.F. Transfe	ormer	
1	switch				Aerial Coupling		
		Capacitor	•	E13	Meriar Coopinig		
Ċ	100pF	CII	65⊅F		A4 to	cellane	
C2	100pF	CI2	65pF	SI	Wavechange Sv		eous
<b>C</b> 3	65¢F	CI3	200¢F	TI	Outbut Transfe	VILCI	
C4	65¢F	CI4	200pr 0·001 μF		Output Transfo	rmer	
	532pF	CI5				_	
<sup>7</sup> C5 C6	200 pF	CI6	0·05 μF		Variable	Capac	itors
C7	200pr 280pF		200 pF	TCI	24-70pF Two Ba	ink	
108		CI7	0·01 μF	TC2	∫ Squash Plate T	'rimme	ers
C9	0·05μF	CI8	2μF	TC3	528pF Swing T	wo Ga	ing
	0·05 μF		or I µF	TC4	1 4-70pF Two Bo	ink	
C10	0∙I µF			TC5	🕇 Squash Plate T	'rimme	ers
		Inducto	rs				
L	M.W. Fran				Va	lves	
≈ <b>L2</b>	L.W. Fram			VI	Mullard DK96	¥3	Mull
<b>13</b>	M.W. Load	ding Coll			Mullard DF96	V4	Mull
1.4							
11		Table	I.—The list of com	honents for	the receiver in Fig	1	
•		1901	e the last of confi	onenta (or	the receiver in Fig.	1.	

speaker and gently tap the DAF91 or DAF96, etc., valve. This is always slightly microphonic, and if a ringing sound can be heard the A.F. and output sections are in order. Alternatively, if the volume control causes slight crackling when operated, the same applies.

If the set uses a 7.5V L.T. battery, indicating that the filaments are connected in series, then a positive result from the above test would indicate that the filaments of the first two valves are also in order. However, if a 1.5V battery is used, in spite of the A.F. and output stages being in order, the filament of either the frequency changer or 1.F. amplifier valve may be open-circuit. An opencircuit filament in one or more valves would not affect the operation of the other valves in a parallel-connected filament circuit, but this, of course, does not follow in a series-connected filament circuit. condition, it may be found to operate only at the extreme end of the dial or on one waveband only, usually medium-wave.

These troubles are aggravated, however, by a low emission frequency-changer valve. This fault also makes it necessary to replace the L.T. battery before it is completely exhausted, since the oscillator may fail due to the low emission valve when the L.T. drops to about 1.3V, whereas with a normal valve the set may continue working with the L.T. down to about 1.1V.

### Low Volume and Distortion

There are three components which are prone to cause trouble if they develop a fault. Referring to the circuit of Fig. 1, these are R6, R7 and C17. R6, which is in the region of 1M, is rather difficult to check on an ordinary medium resistance testmeter in terms of measuring the voltage at V3

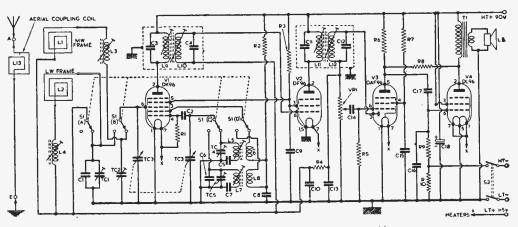


Fig. 1 .-- The circuit diagram of a typical all-dry battery portable.

The filament is connected across pins 1 and 7 on B7G type valves, and can be checked easily by connecting an ohmmeter across the pins. A low resistance ohmmeter, however, must never be used for this test, as the current in the ohmmeter circuit may exceed 25mA and thus either overrun or open-circuit the filament of the valve under test. If in any doubt, it is desirable to take the suspect valves to a dealer for testing.

If all the valves are in order and the set appears to be "live" but will not pick up stations, the local oscillator associated with the DK-type valve (frequency changer). In most cases insufficient L.T. voltage is the primary trouble. If the L.T. battery is tested off-load with a high resistance voltmeter or multimeter it may well indicate the full 1.5V, but on-load it may be well below this value. It is essential, therefore, always to measure battery voltages when the batteries are connected to the set and with the set switched on.

Some all-dry portables will operate with the L.T. voltage as low as 1.1V, but others cease operating when the on-load L.T. is around the 1.3V figure. Another symptom of low L.T. voltage is that the set may operate satisfactorily for about five or ten minutes and then suddenly cut off. Under this

anode, owing to the loading effect of the meter across the high resistance. The same applies to the screen feed resistor, R7, and in both of these cases only a very low voltage is indicated, even if the resistors are in order. With some meters no reading at all will be obtained at the screen grid of V3, since R7 may be as high as 4.7M. If in any doubt, it definitely pays to check these resistors by substitution.

The coupling capacitor C17 may leak slightly and reflect a small positive potential on the control grid of the output valve V4. This cannot usually be measured, again owing to the very high associated resistances involved, but even an apparently negligible leak in this component causes severe distortion and low volume. This fault also causes a higher than normal H.T. current in the output valve, which not only ruins the valve after a while, but also causes the H.T. battery to be discharged quicker than it should.

### Mains Battery Receivers

Fig. 2 shows the circuit diagram of a typical mains/battery portable (the Double Decca). Apart from the mains power pack and switching arrangements, it will be seen that the basic circuit is rather like its battery-only counterpart. The troubles

which have already been described apply also to the mains/battery type portable, but in addition other troubles often occur which are associated with the mains H.T. supply.

with the mains H.T. supply. SWhen switched to "mains", switch S6 directs the power supply to the H.T./L.T. rectifier; switch S5 picks up the rectified voltage, via the required tapping on the voltage dropper, R13/14/15, and directs it to the H.T. line; switch S7 switches the series-connected valve filaments also across the H.T. supply, via the filament dropping resistor R12. The switch sections are, of course, ganged.

This arrangement of operating the valve filaments from the H.T. supply, via a dropping resistor, is common practice, though on certain should be an immediate suspect, especially if the set has been operating correctly for a considerable period before the fault develops. An approximate measurement of the H.T. voltage may not reveal the trouble, but if the rectifier is at fault, the voltage across each valve filament will be below the required 1.4V.

This trouble is aggravated if the power supply voltage falls, as it does in many areas these days of heavy mains demands. A contributory factor is also a low emission frequency changer valve, as has already been discussed under battery receivers.

In order to enhance the filament voltage distribution, resistors are sometimes connected in parallel with the filaments. Such a resistor is R18

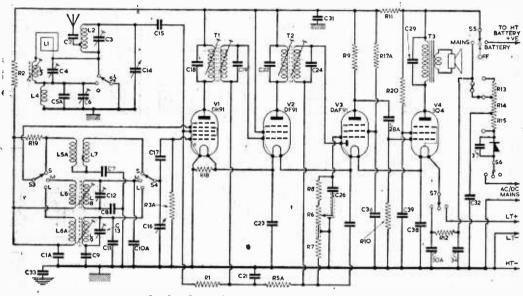


Fig. 2.-Circuit diagram of a mains/battery portable.

receivers a separate L.T. power pack is provided, including a small transformer and rectifier. The rectifier is, therefore, called upon not only to supply H.T. power, but also filament power, and the total can add up to almost 100mA.

the total can add up to almost 100mA. The most critical part of the circuit is the filament chain, for if the current is less than, or in excess of, the filament rating of the valves, each filament will either have too little or too much voltage across it. Insufficient voltage will give low volume and possibly prevent the local oscillator from working, while too great a voltage will ruin the valves and prevent them from operating when normal voltage is restored. At this stage it should be carefully noted that once the filament of the all-dry type of valve is overrun, the valve might just as well be thrown away, for it will never operate again under correct conditions. Thus, when servicing, extreme care should be taken not to short out the filament dropper or by-pass part of the filament circuit. The receiver, should also be adjusted carefully to suit the applied mains voltage.

In the event of the set suddenly cutting out after operating for, say, an hour or so, the H.T. rectifier in Fig. 2. These should never be removed or changed in value in order to obtain a greater voltage across a filament. If the voltage differs between each filament, and the filament resistors are of correct value, then one or more of the valves may have been overrun at some time causing an alteration in filament resistance.

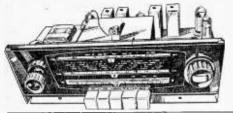
### Hum and Distortion

Adequate smoothing is essential in order to eliminate mains ripple from the H.T. and L.T. lines, and this is accomplished by the use of relatively low voltage, high capacitance electrolytic capacitors. Excessive hum accompanied by distortion should, therefore, first lead to a check of these components, not forgetting those in the L.T. circuit.

Finally, a word of warning, as the chassis is connected direct to one side of the mains supply on most mains/battery portables, care must be taken when making tests with the set connected to the supply. It is desirable first to check the chassis with a neon bulb to make sure that it is connected to the neutral of the supply.

F. F.

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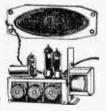
Prices include Test Prods, Batteries, Instruction Book. Also measure dB. Accuracy: A.C., 3 per cent. D.C., 2 per cent.

A-10 £4.17.6

B-20 £6.10.0

A.10-2K ohms/v. on A.C. and D.C. volts (10, 50, 250, 500 and 1000 v.); 10K and 1M ohms; ; mA, 25 mA and 250 mA. D.C. Size; 51 x 33 x 1 in. Weight 17 oz.

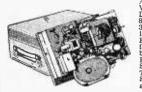
B+20-10K ohms/v, on 0.5 v, and 2.5 v.; 4K ohms/v, on 10, 50, 250, 500 and 1000 v., A.C. and D.C. Resistance, 2K, 200K, 2 M and 20M ohms; D.C. current, 100 microA, 2.5 mA, 25 mA, 250mA. Size: 54 x 3 x 21in, Weight, 24 oz.



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PC12



#### Aerial Design

**RECENTLY** visited a country district and saw something which reminded me of the very early days of broadcasting, and awakened in my mind a problem which has worried me for some time. Attached to the roof of a house was what at first sight appeared to be a home-made sweep's brush, attached to the outside of a chimney. I looked closer, and sure enough it was one of those aerials which was all too familiar in the early days, made up of a number of lengths of the stranded copper wire which were known as 7/22's, soldered to a small ring and attached to the end of a downlead. It brought back memories of many novel aerial designs which were not only published in the early issues of this and other magazines, but which were used successfully and which had many fantastic claims made for them.

There was the type made from a length of wire, similar to an ordinary inverted "L" aerial, and hanging on to it, were small clusters of short wire, at intervals of 18in. or so. Then there was the aerial made from two hoops (about 2ft in diameter) supported on a pole, with the aerial attached firmly to one hoop and then run up and down round the

hoops. No doubt some of the older readers can remember others. but they all had one good feature -they gave improved results at that time. Valves were, of course, not so efficient as they are to-day, and it was common to use a two or three valve set and receive over remarkable distances. The air was clearer, of course, and there were not so many stations, so that selectivity did not have to be so good as it is to-day. The performance of these aerials all appeared to rely upon the added amount of wire which was "up aloft" and the very few experiments which I carried out seemed to indicate that it mattered very little how this extra wire was accommodated --- whether it was soldered together in a bunch, or hung from another wire at short intervals.

I believe that, round about the time of which I am speaking, there was a commercial aerial on sale in the U.S.A. which consisted of a flat sheet of copper about 2ft square, for which most remarkable claims were made. To-day, of course, as I have mentioned before, a very short wire, supported vertically seems to be most productive of a really reliable allround all-wave performance. Many of to-day's transmitters use the metal mast as a radiator, and, in fact, a very prevalent trouble (known as the "Luxembourg effect") can be avoided by using such an aerial. On television the same thing now appears to be happening in the U.S.A. in an endeavour to produce an aerial which will de equally efficient on all bands, but, of course, the very short wavelengths, which are used, complicate the problem.

#### "Pocket" Portables

I must thank reader Gilbanks for writing to me concerning the nuisance caused by the popular transistor portables referred to in my notes in the February issue. Amongst other things, he reminds me that the L.C.C. has a bye-law in all their parks covering the use of radios, record players and other musical instruments, which states that they must not be used if they are a nuisance to other people. He rightly anticipates that at the rate at which the use of these sets is increasing, there will shortly be such laws introduced at most seaside resorts and beauty spots. If the nuisance becomes too great then I can foresee the portable practically killing itself and I believe the Noise Abatement Society have this type of set quite high on their list of public "nuisances".



A printed circuit designer at the St. Albans Works of Marconi Instruments, draws up an Astrofoil master. Subsequently, the design is photographed; from the negative, any number of printed circuit boards can be run off.

# An Introduction to Stereo

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

HIS article is intended to give guidance firstly to those about to enter the field of stereophonic sound, and secondly to enable mono hi-fi enthusiasts to convert their present systems to stereo by adding another amplifier.

#### The Complete System

A complete system is shown in Fig. 1. Radio has been included, although stereophonic radio is, at the moment, only being broadcast on an experimental basis.

Stereo recordings give us two separate sets of intelligence on the record, and these are kept separate throughout the two amplifier and loudspeaker systems. Our ears recombine these two sets of information and give the illusion of depth and breadth of music.

A study of the block diagram of a stereo system Fig. 1, shows that it comprises a turntable, a pickup, pre-amplifier and tone control unit, the main amplifiers (preferably identical), the two loudspeaker systems, radio feeder unit (if fitted), and the power supply.

#### The Turntable

If the reader already possesses a turntable, it is advisable to write to the manufacturer to ensure that the unit is suitable for stereo. Some of the earlier 3-speed units are not suitable for conversion. If, on the other hand, a new unit is to be purchased, there is a large choice.

#### **Transcription Motor**

If expense is no object, a transcription type motor is undoubtedly the best, but, for the majority of readers, a good quality autochanger or single player will be more than adequate and the money saved can be put to good use on the loudspeaker system.

#### Autochanger

Since their first appearance many years ago, fierce arguments have taken place over the merits

By N. A. Walter

and otherwise of autochangers. However, modern changers are vastly superior to their earlier counterparts, and if the reader requires to play a number of records without the need to keep putting records on, an autochanger is the obvious choice.

Before deciding upon a unit, the following points should be borne in mind:

1. it should be a four speed (78, 45, 33 and 16rev/min.) unit.

2. it should be possible to adjust the playing weight of the pick-up to between, say, 4 and 8gm.

both the stylus and the cartridge should be easy to change.
 there must be sufficient clearance both above

4. there must be sufficient clearance both above and below the baseboard for the unit of your choice (6in. above and 2in. below is a typical value).

Before finally deciding, hear each unit working and listen for the following three points.

#### "Wow"

This consists of slow changes in the speed of rotation of the turntable and may best be heard on a long sustained sound, or on piano music, the ear being very sensitive to slight changes of pitch on a continuous note.

#### "Fluttel"

This is a high frequency modulation superimposed on the music, resulting in a "roughness" to the tone of the recording. It is usually less noticeable than "wow".

#### "Rumble"

Rumble is of a very low frequency—hence the name—and is best heard on a record with no, or only light modulation, such as a light violin passage. An electrical filter is given later, which can be used to minimise the effect.

#### The Pick-up

If an autochanger is purchased, a pick-up will normally be fitted. This will almost invariably be of the crystal type, and have advantages of a good frequency response (40-12,000c/s is quite

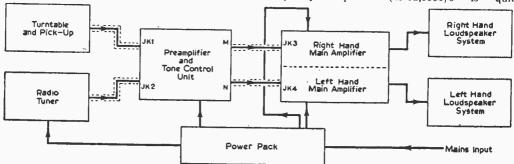


Fig. 1.-Block diagram of the complete system.

May, 1961

common); a good output (100 to 300mV from each channel in stereo); and be inexpensive and quite robust.

However, it must be remembered that crystal pick-ups are high impedance devices and a few elementary precautions can bring excellent results. First, they should be fed into an impedance of 1M if possible, but certainly not less than 0.25M, or a falling off of the bass response will result. Secondly, the shorter the leads from the pick-up to the pre-amplifier the better, and a maximum of two feet should be allowed. This lead can represent quite a high capacity in shunt with the pick-up and can result in heavy losses. A screened lead should be used to prevent hum pick-up, but the screening should be insulated and earthed only at the pre-amplifier input. If hum is objectionable, the main power transformer should be re-orientated to find the optimum position.

As a general rule, a crystal pick-up can be represented as a capacity of the order of  $0.01\mu$ F in shunt with several megohms. For this reason, shunting of the pick-up output by a capacitor does not result in a high frequency cut, as in the case of a magnetic pick-up, but only in a reduction of the output as a whole. Also, in some cases, a correction circuit is recommended by the pickup manufacturer and this usually consists of a simple capacity/resistance circuit. Before leaving the subject of turntables and pick-ups it is worth mentioning a few of the faults of stereo cartridges.

They are more responsive to turntable rumble, owing to the fact that they must respond to a vertical as well as horizontal component of the recording. Acoustic feedback through the cabinet can be a serious problem, unless the baseboard and cabinet are very substantial, and the speakers well shielded from the turntable, and unless there is a definite reason against it, the loudspeakers should be separately housed.

#### The Radio Feeder Unit

The only decisive factor to bear in mind here is whether to use F.M. or A.M. for reception. F.M. is the obvious choice, and unless there are any other strong reasons, A.M. may be ignored.

The H.T. and L.T. requirements are dealt with under the power-pack section, but in general, most units require an H.T. between 200 and 250V and take 30 to 50mA.

#### Pre-amplifier and Tone Control Unit

The function of this single valve unit is to provide some measure of gain, to provide switching for stereo records, mono records and radio (if desired another position can be included if tape is to be used), and tone, volume and balance

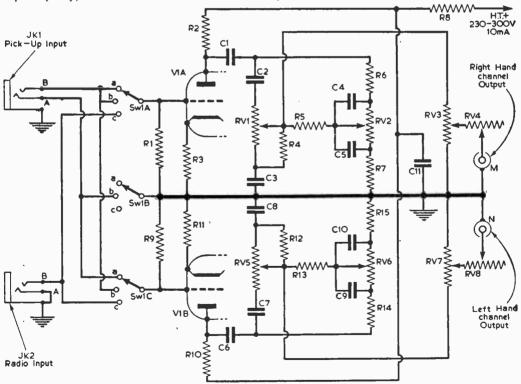


Fig. 2.—Circuit of the pre-amplifier and tone control unit. (Note: RV4 is connected so that when the spindle is turned clockwise, the resistance decreases; RV8 is connected in the opposite sense. The cables linking the preamplifier to the main amplifier (to be described in a future issue) should be single-core, flexible, screened cable. Positign (a) of SWI is for stereo; position (b) for mono; and position (c) for radio.

COMPONENTS LIST
RI, R9 IM <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> W high stability
R2, R10 100k 1/W high stability
R3, R11 1500 Ω ¼W
R4, R12 47k $\frac{1}{4}W$
R5, R13 39k 1/W
R6, R14 68k 1 W
R7, R15 6.8k 1W
R8 (common to both units) 15k ½W
RVI, RV5 dual, ganged, 250k linear
potentiometer
RV2, RV6 dual, ganged, 250k linear
potentiometer
RV3, RV7 dual, ganged, 250k log.
potentiometer
RV4, RV8 dual, ganged, 500k linear
potentiometer
Note: See text for function of each variable
control
C1, C6 0.25 µF 350VW
C2, C7 600pF
C3, C8 8200pF
C4, C9 300pF
C5, C10 3300pF
CII (common to both units) 0.25 µF 350VW
addet of farth incuter connected
for 6.3V operation)
JK1, JK2 2-pole earth input jack sockets
SWI 3-pole, 3-way, rotary type
Valveholder: B9A, nylon loaded, skirted and resiliently mounted
Chassis to suit components:
3ft of light, twin-core, screened cable (for
wiring pick-up to input socket)
Suitable length of single-core screened cable
to connect output of each channel to main amplifier

controls. In this particular design, this has been kept as a separate chassis since all the amplifier controls are on this unit, and can, therefore, be bolted to the control panel of the radiogram, leaving the heavier units such as power pack and main amplifiers to be housed at the bottom of the cabinet. This arrangement is also less likely to suffer from hum pick-up, as the pre-amplifier can be kept close to the pick-up and well away from the mains transformer.

If we now consider the detailed circuit (Fig. 2) we see that a single double triode valve (12AT7) is used. This is purely for economy purposes, and two EF86's connected as triodes would be a slightly better arrangement. One half of the valve is used as a pre-amplifier for the right hand channel and the other half for the left hand channel, each circuit being identical.

Taking one half of the circuit, it can be seen that the pick-up is fed into a 2-pole jack, JK1, on to the "selector switch" SW1. This selector switch arranges that in position "A" the common lead of the pick-up is earthed, and the left and right hand channel leads are connected to their respective grids.

With the cathode resistors R3 and R11 not bypassed, a gain of 26 is obtained (if bypassed by a  $50\mu$ F 12VW capacitor, a gain of 40 is obtained), and the amplified signal is fed via C1 to the tone control circuits. Network C2, C3 and RV1 forms the treble boost and cut control and R6, RV2, R7, C4 and C5 constitute the bass boost and cut circuits. RV3 is the master volume control, and RV4 the balance control. The tone control circuits introduce a loss of approximately 10 to 1, so that the overall gain of the pre-amplifier is of the order of two. This is adequate since the main amplifiers need only 100mV for full output. The overall distortion of the pre-amplifier circuit is less than 0-2per cent.

Let us now consider each control and its function in a little more detail.

#### Selector Switch (SW)

As has been said already this has three positions, "stereo", "mono", and "radio" and a fourth (" tape ") can be added if needed.

#### Treble

RV1, RV5, is a twin-gang, linear,  $\frac{1}{4}M$ potentiometer and provides a boost of approximately 10dB and a cut of 10dB, continuously variable (measured at 10kc/s relative to 1kc/s).

#### Bass

RV2, RV6 is a twin-gang, linear, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>M potentiometer and provides a boost of approximately 10dB and a cut of 5dB continuously variable (measured at 50c/s relative to 1,000c/s).

#### Master Volume Control

RV3, RV7 is a twin-gang, logarithmic law, potentiometer, providing simultaneous volume control of each channel. A log law potentiometer is needed here in order to avoid the "fierceness" at the minimum volume position which would result if a linear potentiometer were used.

#### Balance Control RV4, RV8

This is a twin-gang 500k linear potentiometer, the function of which is to adjust the volume from the two loudspeakers for equal level. In theory, if everything in the amplifiers and loudspeakers were identical, this control would not be needed, but owing to tolerances in components, and room acoustics, this control will be found very useful.

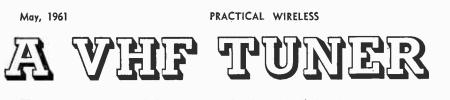
#### **Reverse Stereo**

A reverse stereo control has not been fitted. The function of such a control is to reverse the output to the speakers, i.e. to change the right hand channel to the left hand loudspeaker and vice versa, if such a control is considered necessary, a simple change-over switch can be fitted to change over the outputs M and N (Fig. 2) in such a way that, in one position, M can be fed into the right hand channel main amplifier and by reversing the switch into the left hand main amplifier. N is simultaneously changed over in the opposite sense.

#### **Precautions in Wiring**

The following points should be considered standard practice in any high quality sound reproducing equipment and if followed, hum and noise will be inaudible.

(Continued on page 54)



(Continued from page 1122 of the April issue).

HE tuner requires a power supply of about 50mA at 250V and it must be well smoothed. This is rather a large demand to make upon an existing amplifier and so the design includes a built-in power pack, the circuit of which was given in Fig. 2 last month. The prototype uses a 6X5 rectifier but others such as 5Z4, EZ80 etc., will serve equally, the only requirement being that the appropriate heater voltage is available from the transformer. Resistance smoothing is used and the value of R27 may need some adjustment to produce the correct H.T. rail voltage of 250. This resistor must be mounted above the chassis in a position where its heat is easily dissipated; in the prototype it is mounted on a tag strip bolted to the top of the mains transformer. No mains switch is included, the supply being controlled by a switch in the associated A.F. amplifier.

#### **Construction of the Tuner**

The tuner is a little more complicated than some and the constructor with VHF experience will be at an advantage. It is advisable, generally, to adhere to the layout and wiring given but minor departures are not likely to cause trouble in view of the comprehensive screening below the chassis. The controls, input and output sockets, etc., are in the positions best suited to the service for which the prototype was built but the tuning switch for instance, which is mounted on a bracket underneath the chassis, can be reorientated so as to bring the control out at the front; or if it is desired to keep the long sides clear, the input and output sockets can be repositioned on the deck of the chassis so that the cables plug in vertically. The performance will not be affected so long as the connections are kept short.

It is necessary to observe VHF technique throughout the construction. This means short direct connections, especially in the case of by-pass and decoupling components. It is not necessary to go to extremes but connections should not exceed \$in. in length unless it is unavoid-

able. Miniature components should be used, care being taken not to damage them when soldering. An iron of the instrument type, having a bit, about  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. in diameter, is the most suitable tool.

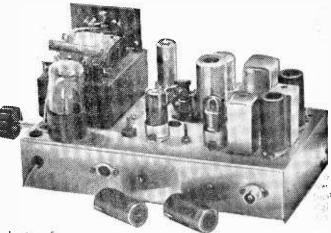
#### Wiring

In the wiring diagrams, Figs. 3 and 4, some of the connections appear rather long because they have been opened out for clarity. In construction, they should be as short and direct as possible, without regard to appearance. One or two of the connections in the oscillator circuit are in fact rather longer than might be thought permissible but in these cases, the inductance of the wire merely adds to the inductive reactance of the circuit and no harm results. Tinned copper wire of 22s.w.g. is

suitable for all wiring except the valve heaters, for which 5A flexible p.v.c. covered is recommended. It should be noted that although, in the circuit diagram—Fig. 1, last month—the aerial was shown with the normal aerial symbol, it is in fact a conventional F.M. dipole. In order to improve stability, the heater and screen pins of V1 should be by-passed to the cathode of the valve, and not to chassis, as in Fig. 1. The value of C19 (which was indistinct in Fig. 1) is 10pF.

It must be emphasised that the wiring diagram (Fig. 3, last month) must not be followed exactly; as is usual at VHF, leads must be as short and direct as possible if instability is not to occur. In Fig. 3, the wiring was shown opened out for clarity, and in particular, the by-pass capacitors, C1, C2 and C4, should be taken to a common point at cathode potential. This common point is by-passed to chassis via C3.

In view of the amount of detailed work required below the chassis, it is an advantage to make a rough wooden box into which it can be placed upside down, suspended by the end flanges. The valve holders should be fitted first, followed by the transformers and electrolytics. The screens should then be made



The completed receiver.

E. H. Berney

By

THE POWER SUPPLY

and fitted and their positions marked on the chassis: after which they may be removed until construction is practically complete. Commence wiring with the valve heaters and their associated by-pass capacitors, after which work can proceed stage by stage from aerial to output and power supply. Take care to place all components clear of the screen positions. Dropping and decoupling resistors can conveniently be mounted vertically (except for V2a) so that when the screens are in position the H.T. rail can be run round above them to each stage in turn.

#### Chassis

The tuner with its power supply is built on a chassis measuring Fig. 4.—Wiring of the oscillator coil and tuning correction assembly.

9in. x 5in. x 2in., a plan of which is given in Fig. 5. Aluminium of 18s.w.g. is suitable. Note that the long sides are only 14in. deep so that there is a space of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. through which air can enter to pass out through the vents provided in the deck for the purpose.

#### Screens

The dimensions of the screens which are also of 18s.w.g. aluminium, and a plan showing their assembly, is given in Fig. 6. The three pieces should be bolted or riveted together and the whole assembly placed in the chassis and secured in four places with bolts or self-tapping screws; the holes for these are best drilled with the screens in position, through both thicknesses of metal in one operation. Cut-outs are provided in the screens for the three wiring connections which must pass beneath them.

The oscillator coil L3 and the tuning correction network, are mounted above the chassis. No radiation from this source has been detected in the prototype, but if trouble is experienced, the whole assembly should be covered with a light

#### Components

aluminium screen.

Ceramic capacitors are suitable for most positions and are generally to be preferred for their small physical size. C14, 15, 17 and 20 should be silver mica. The electrolytic, C35, must be a wire ended type as neither end is at earth potential, and the working voltage should be not less than 50. C36 and 37 may be one double component if it can be accommodated. The resistors may be all  $\frac{1}{4}$ W except R20 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ W) and R27 (10W). The junction diode, OA10 is an industrial type not usually stocked by component dealers, but is obtainable to order at short notice. The valves should be screened except for V6 and V7.

#### The Coils

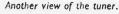
The signal frequency coils are wound with 20s.w.g. tinned copper wire on formers  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. in diameter, having  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. dust cores. L1 consists of  $\frac{3}{2}$  turns and L2, 3 turns which should be spaced at slightly more than one wire diameter. The aerial coupling coil on L1 is one turn of 22s.w.g. enamelled wire. The oscillator coil, L3, is  $\frac{4}{2}$  turns of 20s.w.g. with the same spacing on a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. former with  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. core. Details of the windings are shown in Fig. 7. All the windings must be fixed firmly in position with polystyrene cement and it is an advantage to wind the wire first on a slightly smaller former, putting on an extra turn. It can then be transferred to the proper former where it will fit tightly and the turns can be adjusted for number and spacing.

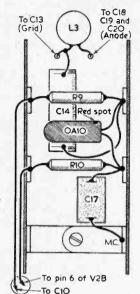
#### I.F. Alignment

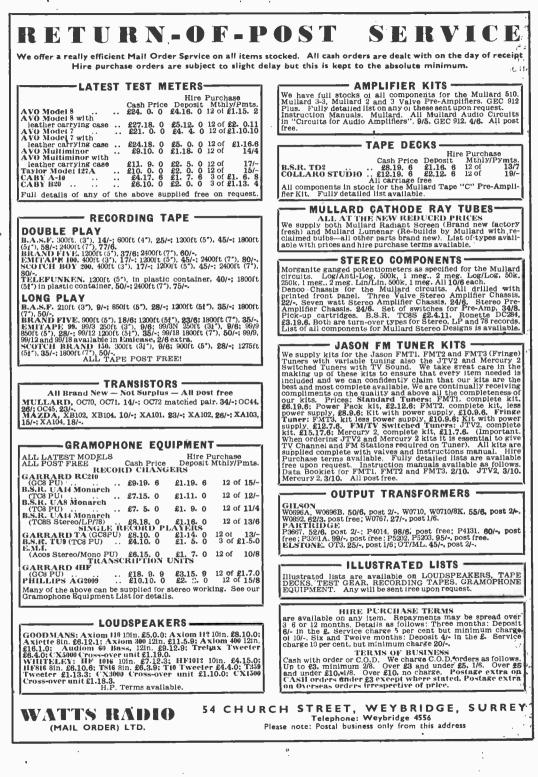
When construction is complete, check first that the correct H.T. rail voltage is present and adjust R27 if necessary. Alignment can then be commenced, after allowing about 15 minutes for warming up. A high resistance D.C. voltmeter is required and also if possible an A.M. signal generator. The procedure is as follows.

Detach the automatic tuning control lead from R21 and solder it to earth in the vicinity. Connect the voltmeter on the 10V range across C35 and inject, at the grid of V4, an unmodulated signal of 10.7 Mc/s. Adjust the top core of the ratio detector transformer and both cores of I.F.T.2 for maximum response. The generator signal should be reduced progressively as the circuits come into line so that the meter indication does not exceed 5V. Now connect the meter between point "Z" (Fig. 1) and earth and adjust the bottom core of the detector transformer for zero. This will affect the adjustment of the top core which should therefore be readjusted for maximum. Only a small adjustment should be required.

Now transfer the generator to the grid of V3 and adjust both cores of I.F.T.1. Finally, with injection at V3, check that all cores are properly peaked and that the output at point "Z" is zero. Care is necessary with the bottom core of the detector transformer.







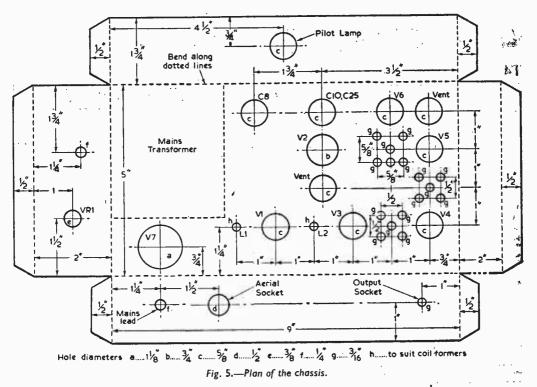
#### PRACTICAL WIRELESS

May, 1961

#### T4 FM TUNER (illustrated) 19 GNS. A high fidelity VHF tuner which is designed to match any amplifier or tape recorder. Incorporating features normally found only in the most expensive tuners it represents outstanding value at its price. It is completely stable with no trace of drift and A.F.C. provides broad easy tuning. A polished wood cabinet (£2.16s.0d.) is available for those who require a separately mounted tuner. Self powered Full VHF band (87-108 m/cs) Automatic frequency control Cathode follower output ST3 Mk. 2 AM/FM TUNER 27 GNS. Variable output 0-500 mV Multiplex output for stereo radio A self-powered high fidelity tuner which covers the adaptor VHF, medium and long wavebands. It includes all Separate 75 ohm and 300 ohm aerial inputs the features of the T4 tuner and is similar in styling Post this coupon for free descriptive literature or call at your High Fidelity dealer or our Holloway showroom for demonstration. Open 9-5 including Saturdays. and is also designed to match any amplifier or tape recorder. On AM bands the ferrite aerial and unique 2nd IF stage ensure good Continental reception and there is a bright-line indicator for easy tuning. NAME ... ADDRESS The name ARMSTRONG is the registered trade mark of ARMSTRONG WIRELESS & TELEVISION Co. Ltd. PMT Warlters Road, London N.7. Tel: NOR 3213 New from REPANCO **SPECIAL FOR THE "HAMS"** I-THE "JOURNEYMAN" A SIX TRANSISTOR PORT-ABLE RECEIVER MEDIUM AND LONG WAVEBANDS POSITION FOR CAR RADIO AERIAL PRINTED CIRCUIT WITH COMPONENT NUMBERS MARKED **RADIO STATION** FERRITE SLAB AERIAL Illustrated Step by step instructions. 1/6, post 3d. 2-COMPONENT PACK No. 3 CONTAINS REPANCO COMPONENTS FOR THE "JOURNEY-MAN". F530, 54in. Ferrite Slab Aerial, two XT26's 1st and 2nd IFT's XT27 3rd IFT, XO28 osc. coil, all pre-aligned, TT29, single ended push-pull driver transformer, printed circuit and aerial fixing bracket. £2.15.6. inch detachable bit soldering instrument List No. 70 **Combined Protective Unit** 3-MINI-4. A REMARKABLE FOUR TRANSISTOR SUPER-HET POCKET RECEIVER MEDIUM AND LONG WAVEBANDS SIZE OF CASE 51 x 31 xr141in. AUTOMATIC GAIN CONTROL 21in. LOUDSPEAKER 3RD IFT REFLEXED AS AUDIO DRIVER with Wiper/Abrasion Pad and Solder Reel List No. 700 Apply SALES & SERVICE Easy Wiring Plans and Step-by-Step Instructions. 1/6, post 3d. 4...COMPONENT PACK No. 2 CONTAINS REPANCO COMPONENTS FOR THE MINI.4. FS39, Ferrite slab aerial, two XT26's, 1st and 2nd .FT's, XT27 3rd IFT, XC28 osc. coil, all pre-aligned. TT5 transformer group board, switch and speaker pillars. £2.7.6. (Regd. Trade Mark) -SHORT WAVE TRANSISTOR COILS. All coil litz wire, enclosed in high frequency Ferrite pots and tuned with Ferrite cores. Can size $\frac{1}{2}$ in. sq. x $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Send S.A.E. for Full GAUDEN ROAD Details. 10/- each. CLAPHAM HIGH ST. British & Foreign LONDON, S.W.4 Patents, Registered Mail Order and Trade: Wholesale Inquiries and Export: Designs, etc. RADIO EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCTS LTD. 33 Much Park Street., C O V E N T R Y COVENTRY O'Brien's Buildings, 203-269 Foleshill Rd., COVENTRY Telephones: Telegrams: "SOLJOINT, LONDON" MACaulay 4272-3101 Tel.: 27114 Tel.: 24224 www.americanradiohistorv.com

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**Armstrong** Quality Tuners



As it enters the former, the meter reading will rise to a maximum, decline to zero and then rise to a reverse maximum. The zero between the two maxima is the correct position.

#### Acceptance Bandwidth

The acceptance bandwidth should now be checked. With the meter connected between point "Z" and earth and injection at V3 grid, move the signal generator slowly over the range 10.5 to 11Mc/s. If the alignment is symmetrical, as it should be, the meter will show a maximum reading at about 10.6Mc/s zero at 10.7Mc/s and a maximum of inverse polarity at 10.8Mc/s. The two maxima should be of equal magnitude and equidistant from zero.

#### Oscillator

To set the oscillator, connect the tuner to an aerial and an audio amplifier. Set the tuning switch in the centre position and advance the volume control of the amplifier. A subdued "rushing" noise should be heard in the speaker, indicating that V2a is oscillating. If it is not, the fault must be found and rectified before proceeding further. Commencing with the core of L3 fully engaged, withdraw it slowly until the highest frequency transmission is received. Tune this accurately with the aid of the meter between point "Z" and earth. Now turn the switch to each of the other positions in turn and tune in the remaining transmissions with the trimmers C9 and C11. Repeat the process to ensure that all three are properly tuned.

It will be found that there are two positions of

the core of L3 in which programmes are received. The oscillator fréquency should be below that of the received signal and the core position giving the greater inductance is the correct setting. If in doubt about this, set the generator to a frequency about 22Mc/s below that of the transmission and inject a signal at the aerial socket. An image signal should be heard.

#### Signal Frequency Circuits

Set the switch to receive the centre frequency transmission (normally the Third programme) and inject at the aerial socket a signal of appropriate frequency and of strength enough to show two or three volts on the meter connected across C35. Adjust the cores of L1 and L2 for maximum reading.

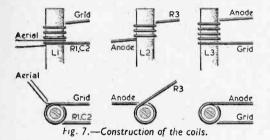
#### Automatic Tuning Control

Connect the positive lead from the voltmeter to C10 and the negative to C25. Adjust VR so that the meter reads -15V. Detach the meter, remove the control voltage line from earth and connect it fo point "Z". Replace the aerial, connect the meter between point "Z" and earth and observe whether the control maintains the tuning accurately. "It will be appreciated that depending upon the connections at the secondary of the detector transformer; the control voltage may not be of the right polarity and if this is so, the receiver will be held permanently off tune. The remedy is to reverse the diode so that the red spot is adjacent to R10 and alter the bias by means of VR to make C25 15V positive with respect to C10.

#### Alignment Without a Generator

The tuner can be aligned satisfactorily without a signal generator but this should not be attempted in areas of poor signal strength unless pre-tuned transformers are used. Connect a good aerial and proceed first as already described for adjustment of the oscillator. When any transmission is heard, tune it for maximum strength on the voltmeter by adjusting the I.F. and detector cores; adjust the bottom core of the detector transformer as already described. The meter indication must be kept below 5V and it will be necessary to attenuate the signal in some way as the circuits come into line, as for instance, by connecting a less efficient aerial. The signal frequency circuits can be aligned in the same way, using the centre frequency transmission in place of the generator signal. If pre-tuned transformers have been used, the adjustment will be limited to those necessary to compensate for differences in stray circuit capacities and will be quite small as a rule.

If pre-tuned transformers have not been used, the operation is more difficult but may nevertheless be achieved if a good aerial and a strong signal are available. First make sure that V2a is oscillating. A rough approach can then be made to alignment by setting L1 core almost fully engaged and L2 about a quarter engaged, both cores of 1.F.T.2 and the bottom core of 1.F.T.1, ‡in. deep in the formers and the top cores of 1.F.T.1 and the detector transformer ‡in. deep. Ignore the bottom core of the detector



transformer at this stage. Connect an aerial and amplifier and with the volume control fully advanced, search for a transmission by manipulating the core of L3. Some perseverance is necessary and the signal when received will probably be weak and distorted, but it can be "nursed" by careful core adjustment until it registers on the meter, when alignment, can proceed as described before. The intermediate frequency arrived at in this way will not be accurate but provided all the cores are properly peaked and the output at point "Z" is zero, the discrepancy will be of no consequence.

#### Drift Test

The automatic frequency control is capable of maintaining accurate tuning over a wide range but it will be appreciated that if the thermal drift of the oscillator is excessive, there will be difficulty in "locking on" to the new transmission when the tuning switch is operated. In the extreme case, the receiver will "hunt" between adjacent transmissions. If this trouble is experienced, carry out a drift test as follows.

Detach the control line from point "Z" and connect it to earth. Solder a short length of wire to point "Z" for connecting the voltmeter and place the tuner

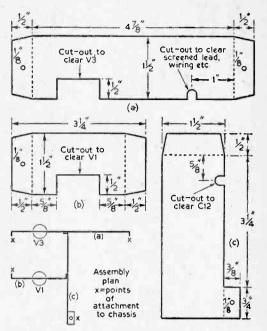


Fig. 6.-Details of the screens and their assembly.

right side up on the bench to simulate service conditions. Set the tuning switch to receive the lowest frequency transmission, switch on and tune the transmission accurately for zero on the meter by manipulating L3 core. Observe the meter at 15minute intervals thereafter and note whether the correction of drift requires an increase or decrease in the inductance of L3. If it is an increase, the negative co-efficient in the parallel combination C19, C20 must be reduced; if a decrease it must be made larger. Whatever alteration is made, the total capacitance of the combination should be maintained within the limits 20-24pF. Exact compensation is not necessary.

#### Operation

Many constructors will no doubt install the tuner in a cabinet with other equipment. Reasonable ventilation is necessary and space is required to bring the tuning control to a convenient operating position together with some means of programme identification. A simple pointer knob will serve for this, but, if desired, spare contacts on the tuning switch may be used to control indicator lamps. Suitable lamps for this purpose are the 6V 0.04A type as used for cycle dynamo rear lights.

#### Aerial

Within the primary service area of the transmitter, a "picture rail" aerial will usually suffice. This can be formed from a length of flat twin flex by parting the conductors over a length of 2ft 6in. and extending them along a picture rail etc., to form a rough dipole 5ft long, the remainder of the flex being used as a down lead. At greater distances, or in poor reception conditions, a loft mounted dipole with reflector is recommended.

# AN AUDIO BOOSTER STAGE

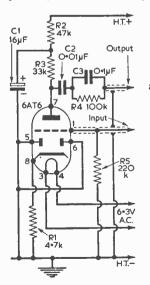
By R. Murray-Shelley

INCREASING THE SENSI-TIVITY OF AN AMPLIFIER

ALTHOUGH this unit was designed in the first instance to increase the output which could be obtained from a tape recorder amplifier, it can be used to give a very worth-while increase in sensitivity to almost any amplifier into which it is connected.

#### The Circuit

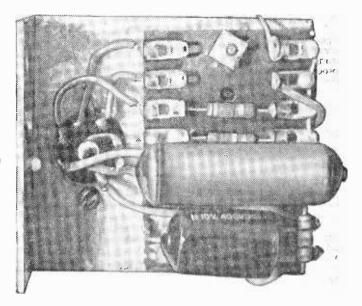
The circuit was designed to be as simple as possible, consistent with good results. It is not



intended to produce maximum the gain which can be obtained from the valve used, since too much gain only results in overloading of the output of the main stage amplifier with resultant distortion. It will be seen that a single valve is used, a 6AT6, which is a double diode triode, and which fits a B7G base. In this case the diodes are not used and are connected to the chassis. The choice of valve which may be used is by no means limited, and almost

Fig. I (left).—The basic circuit of the booster unit.

Fig. 2 (right).—A modified circuit for A.C./D.C. amplifiers.

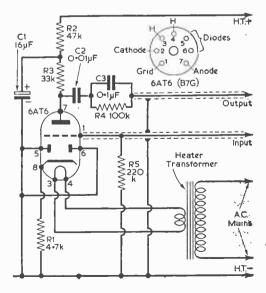


any small triode such as a 6C4 or EC90 will give good results.

#### Noise

Decoupling of the anode of the valve does much to reduce hum, and the omission of a cathode bypass condenser introduces a measure of negative feedback over the stage, which, though reducing the effective gain of the circuit, adds to its stability and reduces any distortion which may be introduced by the unit.

The resistor. R4, was introduced to attenuate the output of the unit further, since the gain



was found to be greater than that which was required, and with C3, it adds a degree of treble boost to the output. This was found to be necessary in the particular application for which the booster was designed. The inclusion of R4 and C3 is entirely optional, but if these components are omitted it is then considered advisable to include a 10 or 20k resistor between C2 and the grid of the output valve.

#### **Power Supplies**

The power requirements of the unit are very modest, 250V D.C. are required at only 1 or 2mA with 6·3V at 0·2A for the valve heater. This power can usually be taken from the amplifier which is being modified. High tension power can very often be easily located at the main smoothing condensers on the amplifier side of the smoothing choke or resistor. or, alternatively, at the output transformer primary. The heater supplies can usually be obtained at the heaters of the valves already present. The heater wiring can be readily

identified, since in most cases it consists of a pair of tightly twisted wires—this twisting is intended to reduce the hum produced by induction caused by the A.C. carried in the heater wires. The heater connections are often coloured brown to the BSI specification.

V—6AT6 valve RI—4·7k	MPONENTS LIST Note: With A.C./D.C. receivers, an earth must not be used
R2—47k R3—33k R4—100k R5—220k	and the mains should be wired so that the neutral lead is connected to the chassis.
CI	VŴ /W
	r, tag board etc. ormer—Primary to suit A.C. dary 6·3V, 0·5A

The unit that has been considered so far may only be used on amplifiers which have parallel connected heaters. since amplifiers with series heaters, or having A.C./D.C. types of circuit are not capable of supplying the necessary heater current. The same unit may, however, be used with this type of amplifier, the only modification to the design that is then necessary, is that a small heater transformer must be provided. The modified circuit is shown in Fig. 2. The primary of the transformer must then be connected to the A.C. mains on the set side of the mains switch. This switch is usually carried on the volume or tone

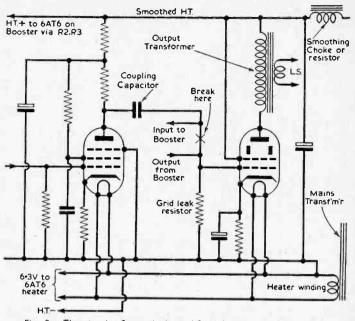


Fig. 3.—The circuit of a typical amplifier, showing the booster unit connections.

control. The high tension supplies are, as before, taken from the main amplifier.

#### Construction

The unit was, in the writer's case, constructed on a small aluminium sub-chassis, size  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in, with a Iin. deep flange on the shorter side. The components are mounted on a tag board, which must be insulated from the chassis, and the result is a small compact unit which can be mounted in any convenient position, either on or near to the existing amplifier.

There are six connections which must be made to the unit, two for the heaters, one each for the high tension positive and negative, and for the signal input and output to the unit. Screened lead should be used for the input and output connections to the chassis, the screening being bonded to the H.T. line. The chassis on which the unit is built should be bonded to the chassis of the original amplifier.

#### Fitting

When fitting the unit in place, only one connection in the main amplifier should be cut. This is the existing feed to the control grid of the output valve. A valve data book is invaluable when locating the control grid pin on the output valveholder. In case such a book is not available, the grid may easily be located in the following manner:—using an insulated screwdriver, touch each of the tags of the valveholder in turn with the blade. On touching the control grid, a click will be heard in the loudspeaker. One should be careful not to short any of the tags to each other or to the chassis when making this test. The unit

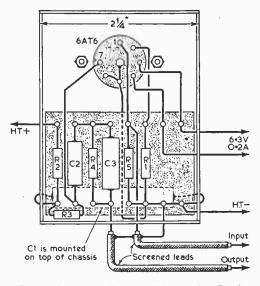


Fig. 4.—The wiring diagram of the unit (see Fig. 1).

### THE P.W. SIGNAL GENERATOR

(Continued from page 27)

Make Cc about 20pF and switch on the R.F. oscillator with the modulation switch off. Rotate the condenser. Heterodyne whistles should be heard. If they are not heard, the valve is not oscillating and the circuit must be rechecked.

The whistles are high pitched and each reduces in pitch and then increases again as the condenser is rotated. Pick out the whistle (actually, a pair of whistles) which is obviously the loudest. This oscillator will then be at 200kc/s when the zero pitch position is reached. The vanes of the oscillator tuning condenser should be about half-way in. Calibration will be carried out later.

in. Calibration will be carried out later. In parts of Southern England, very near the Channel. it may not be possible to pick out the whistle corresponding to 200kc/s. This does not matter much at this stage, but if the receiver is selective enough, and tuned to one station *only*, there will be no doubt.

To the beginner, who has not used a signal generator before, this exercise is of great interest and he should spend many hours experimenting and trying to work out what station is causing each heterodyne (there are about 16 or so stations broadcasting on the L.W. band, the Moscow transmitter being the most powerful on 173kc/s).

#### Testing the Modulation

Without an oscilloscope it is not easy to check the depth of modulation or the waveform. The best test for the beginner to apply is as follows. Tune the receiver to a position on the long wave band where no station is received. Switch on the R.F. unit modulation switch. Rotate the tuning condenser and one position will be found where the modulation note will come over the receiver loudly. If the receiver is calibrated you can tune in either end of the receiver band and thus gain should then be connected as shown in Fig. 3. The existing output valve grid leak resistor should be retained as shown.

#### Components

All resistors should be of  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$ W rating.: The coupling condenser, C2, should be a new component of high voltage working, and beyond question as regards leakage. A nylon-loaded valve-holder should, if possible, be used for the 6AT6 valve. The connections to the unit itself are shown in Fig. 4.

#### Using with a Record Player

This additional stage is also very useful for boosting such small amplifiers as are found in many small record reproducers now on the market. The amplifiers in these consist in most cases of only one valve having a high slope, such as an EL84 or, more commonly, a UL84. Connections in this case are made as before, only now the pick-up is connected to the input. When the booster is used in such circumstances, R5 should be increased to 470k.

Uses for the unit can also be found in boosting the audio stages of radio receivers, etc. The same unit can also be used as a microphone preamplifier. (In this case, R5 should be increased to 470k, and R3 to 100k.)

an idea of the spread of the wave lengths over the oscillator condenser control (dial not yet fitted).

#### **Remaining Wiring**

Now that it has been established that the oscillator and modulator circuits work using coil L1, the remaining coils, L2, L3 and L4. may be wired in circuit together with the switch S8/9. All wiring is shown clearly in Figs 9 and 10. Note that all coil top leads are "G" and bottom leads—all earthed—are "E".

Coils L3 and L4 must have short leads taken exactly as shown, or the ranges obtained may be incorrect.

When wiring is complete, re-test L1—with S8/9 at position 1.

#### A COMPACT ADD-IN B.F.O. UNIT (Continued from page 29)

but if the signal from the B.F.O. is too strong, weak C.W. signals will be lost.

The B.F.O. control switch can be mounted at any convenient point. If the B.F.O. signal is kept down, it will not have any significant effect on the AVC system of many receivers. But if the AVC system is very sensitive (e.g. has little or no delay voltage) the B.F.O. signal will bring the AVC circuit into action, and reduce signal strength of stations tuned in. A trial will soon show if this is happening. If it should be found to arise, an AVC switch should be fitted. This may be ganged with the B.F.O. switch, or may be separate. It renders the AVC circuit inoperative by shorting the AVC line to the receiver chassis. With slow C.W., such a switch is also helpful, as it prevents the receiver trying to follow the C.W. signals, and thereby giving bursts of increased volume after each interval.



#### THE F.M. SECTION

#### F.M. Tuner Construction

Strip the insulation from the leadout wires of the transformer T3 and mount this component on to the board. The component locations printed on the board should be fol-lowed and the appropriate components inserted and soldered.

Some slight modifications have been found advantageous in this section of the receiver since the

HE F.M. tuner employs a 2N502 VHF transistor which is capable of amplification up to frequencies of several hundred megacycles per second. Because of the cost of this type of transistor, conventional circuitry becomes very expensive and the circuit chosen uses only the single transistor to carry out the functions of R.F. amplification, demodulation of the F.M. signal and also A.F. amplification. This is achieved by using a super-regenerative circuit. Whilst basically unconventional, the functioning of this circuit is relatively simple.

#### Battery Mains Power Unit

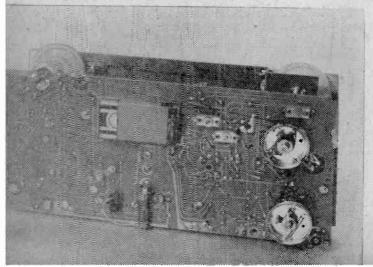
The power unit consists of a subminiature mains transformer, T4, with a tapped primary for mains voltages from 200 to 250. The secondary is centretapped to give full wave rectification using two semi-conductor diodes D2 and D3. Because of the extremely fast response time of semi-conductor diodes they must be protected against switching surges. This is achieved by including the resistancecapacity network C34/R28.

prototype design, which is shown in the blue-print was completed. A resistor of 680 has been substituted in place of the coil L9, and the value of C26 altered from  $0.04\mu$ F to  $10\mu$ F. The value of resistor R24 has been increased to 8.2k and the value of R26 reduced to 10k. For ease of tuning C24 has been increased to 5pF. The telescopic whip aerial has been found to give excellent results without the use of the loading coil L7, and the value of C33 has been reduced to 1pF.

Having mounted the components shown on the printed board, the tuning capacitor C25 may now be fitted. Having ensured that the capacitor is correctly positioned, the fixing nut should be secured. A short length of tinned copper wire should connect one of the rotor solder tags of C25 to one end of C32. This is clearly shown in the illustration of the tuner unit, given on the blue-print. The coil L4 should now be mounted using two 6B.A. screws for fixing. Solder the capacitor C 28 across the terminations of this coil; one end of the coil terminates on the upper tag ring and one end on the lower tag ring. A short length of tinned copper wire should be connected from the

coil termination on the lower tag ring, to the hole marked "Z" on the printed board; this hole is near one of the coil former fixing holes. The capa-citor C24 should now be soldered across the tuning capacitor which has already been fitted. It is vital that this capacitor and all other components in this section are mounted exactly as shown in the blueprint. The tuning coil L3 should now be fitted across the tuning capacitor in the position shown. The coupling coil L8 may also be soldered into position. The end of the coupling coil which

Rear view of the "Roadfarer".



# A.M./F.M. Portable

fits in the aerial socket must at this stage, be left free until the socket itself has been fitted. The VHF reansistor TR7, type 2N502 should now be soldered into position. This high performance transistor should be soldered with extreme care and under no circumstances should the lead wires be overheated since this will, immediately, either destroy the transistor or impair its properties. Each wire as it is being soldered should be held with a pair of long-nosed pliers which will act as a heat shunt and so prevent damage to the transistor by

loadfarer

Once TR7 has been fitted the capacitor C27 may be soldered into position as illustrated. Again, when soldering one end of C27 on to the other terminating tag of the coil L4, to which the emitter of TR7 is already soldered, considerable care should be taken not to overheat the transistor lead.

One end of the telescopic aerial coupling capacitor C33 should now be soldered to the pillar of the tuning capacitor C25 as illustrated. The tuner is now complete except for the aerial connections which are made after mounting the front baffle.



Another view of the set.

overheating. In spite of this precaution the soldering of the leads should be carried out as rapidly as possible. The importance of the foregoing warning cannot be overstressed and the constructor is well advised to exercise the utmost care when dealing with this particular transistor.

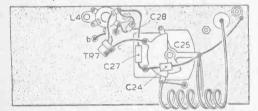
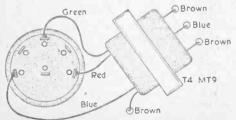


Fig. I (above)-The revised F.M. unit wiring (changes from the prototype wiring given on the blueprint are shown).



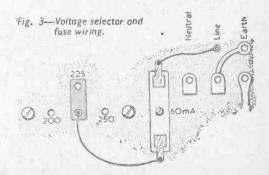


**Power Unit Construction** 

Mount the voltage selector panel using two 4B.A. fixing screws Now insert the mains transformer. T4. into the board, bend over the fixing lugs and solder to the copper circuit. Before soldering, check that the trans-former has been fitted the correct way round. From the side of the transformer nearest the heat sink for the amplifier, three wires emerge and these should be passed through appropriate the holes in the board and

soldered. From the other side of the transformer four leads will be found. The brown lead should be inserted into the appropriate hole in the board and soldered. The three remaining leads should be connected to the voltage selector panel, the colours being located as shown. The two rectifier diodes D2 and D3 should be bolted to the board using the two 4B.A. nuts and washers provided. The solder tags should be fitted to the screw terminals and a short length of tinned copper wire soldered be-tween each tag and the hole in the board directly beneath each tag. The resistor R28. capacitor C34 and C21 should now be fitted. Mount the fuse holder securely in position.

#### Next Month: Alignment



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#### PRACTICAL WIRELESS

A SWITCH TUNED TRF RECEIVER TUNING PROCEDURE AND POSSIBLE

MODIFICATIONS

By J. Harrison

(Continued from page 1072 of the April issue)

LTHOUGH it was stated last month that this receiver employed the "live chassis" technique, the power supply circuit given below incorporates a transformer which has a separate winding for the H.T. The mains is thus isolated from the chassis and the receiver is safe to handle, there being no possibility that the chassis will be live. The transformer should have a tapped mains primary and supply 6.3V at 2A and 200-250V at about 60mA.

#### **Tuning Procedure**

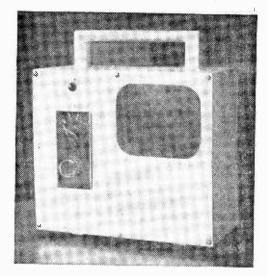
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The tuning of the receiver is quite simple, the following procedure being followed. A length of wire, as long as possible, is connected via a 100pF capacitor to the anode of V1, to act as a temporary aerial. The trimmers C6, C7 and C8 are then adjusted to receive the stations chosen for the switch positions. The temporary aerial is then removed and the trimmers C1, C2 and C3 adjusted to give the maximum output in each case. Fine adjustments are then made to the detector trimmers to compensate for the removal of the capacity of the wire aerial. After the final adjustments are made, each trimmer is locked by applying a dab of paint to its screw.

#### Performance

The receiver constructed gives reception of the local mediumwave Home and Light services of the BBC with more than adequate volume, it being possible to overload the output valve if the gain is advanced too far. The audio output of the final valve under these conditions is about 4W. However, it is difficult to estimate how much of this is radiated by the small speaker.

The receiver has been tuned to receive the Radio Luxembourg transmitter with the switch in its fourth position, which it does quite efficiently when propagation conditions are good. The lack of any form of AVC does, of course, render reception of this station a little erratic. It has also been used to receive various other transmissions, a m on g the more successful being the BBC Third May, 1961



programme and the Hilversum programmes. The use of a ferrite rod aerial has resulted in the receiver being somewhat directional. In use, therefore, it has to be turned into the position which gives the greatest output.

The complete apparatus, in its case, weighs about 8lb, which is quite light enough to be moved frequently from one room to another.

frequently from one room to another. The consumption of power from the mains is of the order of only 25W, and thus, the cooling is quite adequate.

#### Possible Modifications—Addition of Further Switch Positions

There is no reason at all why a receiver of this type should not be constructed with more than three pre-set tuning positions. All that would be necessary for this modification would be the provision of a four-pole switch with as many ways

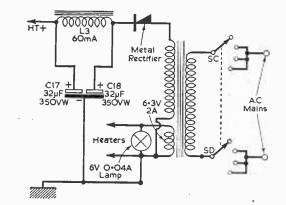


Fig. 7.—The circuit of the power supply. (Although the transformer specified last month was adequate if the "live chassis" technique were to be employed, this circuit shows a transformer with an H.T. secondary winding which enables the receiver to be isolated from the mains supply.)

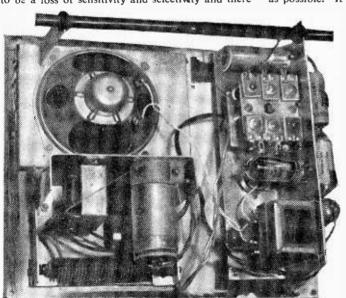
as required, and two trimmers for each position.

If extension beyond five stations is contemplated, it must be remembered that the cost of the switching assembly and the amount of space which it will occupy will become inconveniently large. A doublegang variable capacitor with padding and trimming capacitors would probably represent a better solution.

#### Addition of Long-wave Switch Position

The receiver which has been described was intended for use in London, where the reception of the medium-wave Light programme is quite satisfactory. In some districts this would not be the case and it would be necessary to provide for reception of the Light programme transmission at 1500m. It would not be possible, in practice, to do this by providing very large capacities to tune the existing

coils and a larger inductance would have to be incorporated in the aerial and detector coils. It is possible, at the cost of a loss of sensitivity, to switch in the extra inductance by using the existing switch arrangement. This method was shown in Fig. 6. The long-wave winding should consist of 130 turns of Litz wire, pile wound on the short length of ferrite rod exposed between the end of the medium-wave winding and the receiver chassis. This is not a good method of providing the extra range since there is bound to be a loss of sensitivity and selectiwity and there



The construction of the receiver.

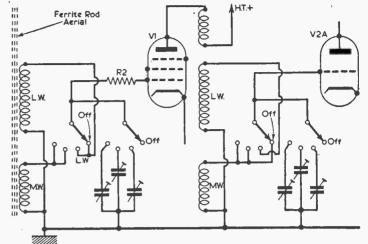


Fig. 8.—A circuit more satisfactory than that of Fig. 6 (last month) for reception of one L.W. station. Two extra switch wafers are required.

may be some cross-talk between the ranges. A much better method would involve the use of extra switch wafers. Such an arrangement is shown in Fig. 8.

#### Use of a Larger Speaker

This circuit is capable of giving an audio output of hign quality and so it might be considered worth while using a larger speaker unit. This would, however, defeat one of the original objects of the design, which was to keep the cost as small as possible. If a suitably loaded 8in. or 10in. unit

were available, it would be worth while improving the bass response of the A.F. amplifier by increasing the values of C11 and C12 from  $0.01\mu$ F to  $0.1\mu$ F.

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#### Alternative Valves

If the following valve substitutions were made, no modifications to the circuit would be necessary, other than changing the value of the cathode bias resistor of the. output valve.

VI	V2 6SQ7GT 6SU7GTY	<b>V</b> 3	R12
EF36	6SQ7GT	6V6	220Ω
(EF50)	6SU7GTY	<b>KT63</b>	410Ω
(SP61)	6SL7GT		۱.

Any combination of these valves could be used and many other types are suitable, but it must be remembered that the total heater current drawn by them is likely to be greater than that needed originally. The rating of T2 must therefore be adjusted accordingly.

Note: The values of capacitors C4 and C14 (see Fig. 1, last month) should be increased from  $0.01\,\mu\text{F}$  to  $0.1\,\mu\text{F}$  to increase stability and bass response.

**Transistor Characteristics** 

A SERIES OF TESTS, WITH WHICH THE READER MAY

By P. Westwood

N completing the following series of tests to obtain the characteristics of a transistor, the author has attempted to include all details which will enable the reader to carry out similar experiments with a minimum of basic instruments. The results are analysed and some guidance is given to enable appreciation of the various points which arise.

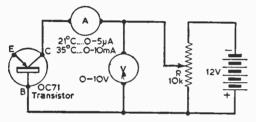


Fig. 1.- The collector-diode test circuit.

When considering a junction transistor; e.g. an OC71, in common base configuration, it can be looked upon as two distinctly separate emitterbase and collector-base diodes representing the "input" and "output" of the transistor. In this sense, their separate characteristics can be obtained with the following apparatus (which will not be beyond the scope of the average enthusiast): one microammeter having a maximum

Transistor Temperature			
21°C •		35	°C
Collector P.D. (V)	Collector Current (µA)	Collector P.D. (V)	Collector Current (mA)
0-1 0-15 0-2 0-25 0-5 0-75 1-5 2-0 4-0 6-0 8-0 10-0	1.8 1.88 1.9 1.9 1.9 1.9 1.93 1.94 1.98 2.0 2.05 2.075	0-1 0-15 0-2 0-25 0-5 0-75 1-5 2-0 4-0 6-0 8-0 10-0	6.4 6.75 6.8 6.81 6.89 6.9 7.0 7.0 7.0 7.0 7.0 7.05 7.1

TABLE I

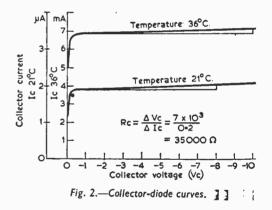
Collector-diode results

reading of about  $5\mu A$ , and two milliammeters which will indicate fairly accurately small currents up to 10mA, a multi-range voltmeter, and a few potentiometers and batteries as shown in the circuit diagrams.

Determination of the increase in collector current for increases in applied voltage.

The circuit should be wired as shown in Fig. 1 and the following point noted. The polarity of the battery is such that the negative side is connected to the collector. It cannot be stressed too strongly that in all transistor experiments, correct battery connections are essential if permanent damage to the transistors is not to result. It is suggested that, at, this stage, a table be drawn up for entry of the results which should, if possible, include the temperature of the transistor at the start of the experiment, i.e. room temperature. The significance of temperature will be realised later.

The collector-base P.D. should now be increased in small steps to a suggested maximum



for this particular transistor of 10V. Each time an increase is made the readings of both instruments should be recorded. Before disconnecting, the whole procedure should be repeated with the transistor held tightly in the palm of the hand, which will cause a temperature rise of about  $15^{\circ}$ C. From the new results thus obtained, together with the original set, collector-diode characteristic curves can be constructed as shown in Fig. 2. From these, several important facts emerge; firstly, the curves can be recognised as being similar in shape to those of a pentode valve, which immediately suggests that the collector-base "slope" resistance is very high. In other words, a small change of collector voltage. Further, it has been shown that when the temperature of a transistor is increased by approximately  $15^{\circ}$ C, the collector current immes

...

that for the same given collector voltage. This illustrates the need for the use ot "heat sinks" to dissipate any excessive heat which may be built up. No doubt the reader is already familiar with the many simple types which are used in commercial equipment.

#### **Emitter-Base Characteristics**

If we now rewire the test circuit so that it corresponds to that shown in Fig. 3, we can, by taking a few simple readings, obtain sufficient information to plot the emitter-base diode characteristics. Eight or nine steps of voltage

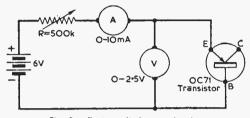


Fig. 3.-Emitter-diode test circuit.

increase with their corresponding current readings are sufficient, as is indicated by the writer's table of results. By taking the slope of the characteristic curve constructed, we can determine the emitterbase resistance; in this case approximately  $765\Omega$ . It should also be noted that for small emitter voltages, the curve becomes extremely non-linear.

So far, we have taken a transistor and treated it as two entirely separate diodes, and have shown that the input resistance of one (emitterbase) is fairly low and that the output resistance of the other (collector-base) is very high. We have also shown that potential across each respective "diode" is in the opposite sense for conduction in common base connection. Finally, it has been seen that, in general, transistors are extremely temperature sensitive.

Now, once again, we shall plot the collectorbase characteristics, but instead of the emitter being left disconnected, emitter-base currents will be set up by an associated circuit and their effect on the collector current examined; that is to say, we shall try to find out if there is any difference in the collector current when its applied voltage remains constant and the emitter current is varied. say from 1mA to 4mA. (The circuit used is given in Fig. 4.)

TABLE 2

Emitter Current le (mA)	Emitter P.D. (Ve)
1.0	0.35
2.0	0.48
3.0	0.58
4.0	0.66
5.0	0.74
6.0	0.81
7.0	0.87
8-0	0.92

Emitter-diode results

To carry out this part of the experiment we increase the emitter-base voltage until the milliammeter in that part of the circuit reads 1mA. The collector voltage rheostat should be adjusted to give a reading of (-5)V. Maintaining the emitter current at 1mA, the collector P.D. is reduced in steps of 1V until zero potential is reached. At each stage, as before, all instrument readings are recorded. The whole procedure should be repeated using fixed emitter currents of 1 to 4mA. If the method still appears a little hazy to any reader, examination of the results table will give a clearer picture of what has been done.

The characteristic curves of collector current against collector voltage, constructed from the table of results we have just drawn up, show clearly that when the emitter is no longer left disconnected, the collector current is not of the order of a few microamperes as previously found, but has increased considerably, and within the limits of the accuracy of the measuring instruments used, would appear to follow the value of the fixed emitter currents: when an emitter current of 2mA was flowing we found that the collector current was also 2mA and remained constant at that figure even when the collector potential was reduced from (-5)V to (-1)V. It can be seen that under "diode" conditions (-5)V produced a current of only  $2\mu A$ , and now, with a zero collector potential, this figure is considerably exceeded. It is quite obvious that under the new test conditions we have set up, the

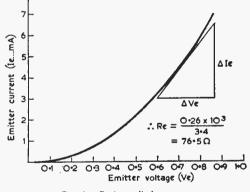


Fig. 4.—Emitter-diode curve.

OC71 transistor can no longer be considered as two separate diodes since there has been some interaction between the "input" (emitter) and "output" (collector) circuits.

It would also seem reasonable that as the only thing which is common to the emitter and collector is the base, that is where we should look for a possible explanation, and so without offering any highly technical or long-winded theories the phenomenon can be reasonably understood using the information already gained as follows.

From the relevant circuit diagram it can be seen that the emitter is biased in a forward or positive direction with respect to the base and thus an emitter-base current flows, this current consisting of conduction by "holes" is diffused in a random manner across the common base, many of these "holes" reaching the base-collector junction, just the reader has come to accept such terms as electron charges" and "free electrons" so he must accept that current flowing in transistors causes a proportional number of "holes" or "positive charges" to be made available in the base particularly at the collector-base junction. It can also be seen that the collector circuit is biased in the opposite sense to the emitter with respect to the common base and so collects the positively charged "holes" when they arrive at the junction. Thus, the current flowing in the emitter-base input circuit causes a similar value of current to flow in the collector-base output circuit. In reality, the collector current is slightly less than that of the emitter, the difference being due to the small base current flowing. It would, therefore, seem reasonable to ask how amplification can be said to have taken place when in fact a current loss has been experienced.

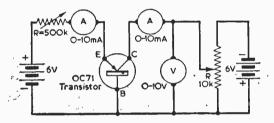
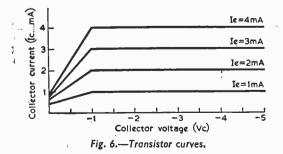


Fig. 5.—Transistor test circuit.

The answer to this question is simple, we have shown that the emitter-base or input resistance is relatively low and that the collector-base output resistance is very high. Our characteristic curves showing collector current against collector voltage under transistor conditions would suggest that there is no detectable current change for a potential difference of 5V but it must be appreciated that a current change of 0-01mA would give a "slope" resistance of 500,000Ω which emphasizes the need for care in taking all readings and constructing the graphs. We have the same current, in fact, in two circuits, one having a high resistance and the other low. Voltage is equal to current multiplied by the resistance through which it flows ( $1 \times R$ ), and for maximum power transfer, the resistance of the external circuits of the transistor should be equal to the internal resistances of the transistor, it follows



Collector Current (mA) Collector for four values of P.D. Emitter Current (mA) 3 L 2 4 -- 5 3 4 2 ī 3 4 4 3 3 22 4 3 4 2 3 4 0.43 0.8 0.975 0.63

Transistor results

that although there has been a slight current reduction there has also been a high voltage gain. The collector load, of course, in many instances consists of an inductance having a high impedance at the working frequency and providing a low D.C. path so that small battery potentials may be used. The emitter is provided with a standing bias to ensure that the superimposed alternating signal operates over the straight portion of the emitter curve.

This completes the work we have set out to do and, although a number of points have been left unexplained, a far better understanding of working of a transistor from a practical point of view should have been achieved enabling the reader readily to understand more complex circuits.

### An Introduction to Stereo

(Continued from page 38)

 High stability resistors should be used where shown in the circuit diagrams, ctherwise carbon composition types are quite suitable.
 The valveholder should be of the loaded

2. The valveholder should be of the loaded nylon, resilient type, and if the loudspeakers are housed in the same cabinet, acoustic shielding in the form of a wooden partition should be arranged between the loudspeakers and the pre-amplifiers.

3. The mains power transformer should be kept as far away from the pre-amplifier unit as possible, and if hum is found, re-orientation of the transformer may cure the trouble.

4. A good earth bus-bar of 12 or 14s.w.g. tinned copper wire should be run on insulators around the chassis and earthed to the chassis at one point only, the input jack, JK1. All earth connections should be made to this bus-bar and not to the chassis.

5. Heater leads should be twisted closely together, kept close to the chassis and well away from input and grid leads.

6. Input leads to the grid circuits should be kept as short as possible, and if the above instructions are carried out, no screened leads need be used in the pre-amplifier and no internal shielding will be required.

May, 1961

TABLE 3

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

55

Radio & TV Engineers' Reference Book 2mm TRANSISTOR CIRCUITE to every keen radio man FOR A WEEK WITHOUT OBLIGATION TO BUY Takanan I was in Takanan Takanan I was no barana Now you can have for free examination the new and revised 3rd Edition of this very practical engineering and servicing work. If you are a Radio Engineer, Technician, Mechanic, Instructor, Student, Keen Amateur, or engaged in the electronics field, this great wealth of data in all branches of radio and television will prove invaluable. It covers a most comprehensive range of subjects, new developments and techniques. 1,800 PAGES, 47 SECTIONS BROADCASTING • COMMUNICATIONS Includes:-Formulæ, Calculations, Communica-tion Theory, Electron Optics, Colour TV, SERVICING • NAVIGATION Materials, Studio Equipment, Transmitter Power Plant, Broadcasting and Communication Trans-mitters, V.H.F. Equipment, Amateur Radio Equipment, TV Transmitters and Aerials, Radio-Frequency Transmission Lines, Waveguides, Broadcasting Receivers, TV Receiver Design, Commercial H.F. Radio Links, Broad-Band Sys-**High Fidelity Recording** and Reproduction. Components Written for you by nearly 50 Specialists Including L. S. Allard, B.SC., AINST, P. (G.E.C. Cathoderay Tube Group); S. W. Amos; B.SC.(HONS.), AMLELE (B.B.C. Tech. Instructions Section); E. S. Bacon, M.SC.(LOND.), A.R.LC. (Chief Supervisor Elec. Labs. Ever Ready Co. (G.B.) Lid.); W. T. Blackband, M.SC., AMLELE. (Aerials Research, R.A.E., Farnborough); R. H. Burdick, A.C.G.L. A.M.LELE. (Marconi's); L. Driscoll, B.SC., AMLELE. (Aerials Research, R.A.E., Farnborough); R. H. Burdick, A.C.G.L. A.M.LELE. (Marconi's); L. Driscoll, B.SC., AMLELE., AMERITLREE. (Murphy Radio); E. A. Fielding, B.SC.TECH.(HONS.), A.M.C.T., M.LELE, A.R.E. (Salford Electrical Instruments Lid.); D. H. Fisher, AMLELE. (Regentone); L. S. Foskett (E.M.I.); R. C. Glass, M.A., B.SC., AMLELE. (Lecturer Applied Physics, North-ampton Coll. Adv. Technology. London); F. J. Grimm, A.M.BRITLRE. (Pye); P. Jones (Aerialite Ltd.); J. M. Kirk, M.B.E., B.SC.(HONS.) D.LC., A.C.G.L., M.LELE. (Standard Tele-phones and Cables Ltd.); L. A. MOXON, B.SC.(ENG.), A.M.LELE, (R.N. Scientific Service); D. F. Urquhart (Erie Resistor Ltd.); V. Valchera (Valradio Ltd.); A. H. B. Walker, B.SC.(ENG.), D.LC., A.C.G.I., M.LE.E. (Westinghouse Research Lab.). Written for you by nearly 50 Specialists tems, Radio Navigation and Radar, Aero Radio and Radar, Radio Astronomy and Satellite Communication Aerials, Valves, Tubes, A.C. Rectification and Ripple Filters, Transistors, Diodes, Resistors, Capacitors, Inductors, Transformers, Gramophone Pick-ups, Speakers, Interference, Recording, Batteries and Conversion Equipment, H.F. Reproduction, Measuring and Test Equipment, R/TV Installation and Servicing, Noise, Projection TV, Oscillators, Industrial TV, Units and Symbols, Progress and Developments, etc. 2,000 DIAGRAMS AND TABLES GEORGE NEWNES LTD., 15-17 LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2. POST NOW Please send me Newnes RADIO AND TELE-VISION ENGINEERS' REFERENCE BOOK with-7-DAY

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#### PRACTICAL WIRELESS





HE end-fed transmitting aerial, in which one end is brought right to the transmitter, has the advantage of simplicity. It is also quite efficient. This does not mean that stations already equipped with centre-fed dipoles, or other aerials, should abandon them in favour of an end-fed wire. But it does mean that an end-fed aerial is extremely easy to erect, so that a transmitter may be brought into action without delay. It can also be operated on its harmonics, permitting working on more than one band, with the single wire.

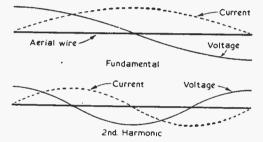


Fig. 1.—Voltage and current distribution for fundamental and second harmonic.

#### Popularity

A record kept of about one hundred contacts on the 80m band showed the following percentage of aerials:

40 end-fed Hertz, or longer.

- 15 Marconi types.
- 34 centre-fed dipoles.
- 11 various other types.

This appears to show that the end-fed aerial is quite popular. These figures do not necessarily represent the aerials used on other bands, where the harmonic efficiency may be undesirable, and where other types of aerial are popular.

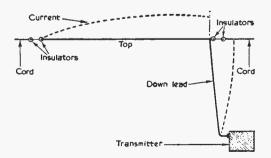


Fig. 2.—A practical end-fed aerial.

The aerial will probably be supported at the house, and a distant pole, tree, or other building. It is thus easy to fix, and among the least conspicuous of out-door transmitting aerials. The length can also be varied considerably. As would be expected, an increase in aerial height increases radiation efficiency. This may be

As would be expected, an increase in aerial height increases radiation efficiency. This may be calculated approximately, but the simplest method is merely to support the aerial as high as possible. It will often be something between about 15ft and 30ft high.

The aerial will also be directional, the pattern changing with harmonic operation. The bearing of the various lobes can be calculated, but this again is scarcely worth while. Instead, it can be assumed that for general use there is no need to pay much attention to the directional characteristics. Briefly, radiation is greatest away from each side of the antenna, and smallest in line with it, when it is used on its fundamental. When used on harmonics, the side lobes break up into smaller lobes.

#### End-fed Hertz

Fig. 1 shows an end-fed Hertz operating on its fundamental. This ideal will not be achieved in practice, but each end will correspond to a point of relatively high voltage, and low current. This is the equivalent of a high impedance. The actual figure may be  $1,000\Omega$  or more, depending on aerial height, and other factors.

When the aerial is operated on its second harmonic (e.g. 40m, for an 80m aerial) it is still voltage-fed at its termination with the transmitter. This remains so with higher harmonics. The same wire can thus be used on two or more bands.

Its efficiency as a harmonic radiator makes this type of aerial an unwise choice for the higher frequency bands. For example, harmonics of the 21Mc/s or 28Mc/s bands can readily cause TV interference.

A typical end-fed Hertz is shown in Fig. 2. The downlead and connection to the transmitter actually form part of the aerial. For practical

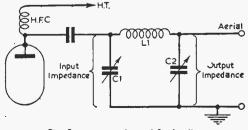


Fig. 3.— $\pi$  network used for loading

heights on 80m most of the aerial will be horizontal.

#### **Aerial Length**

The calculated length will be approximately 124ft for the 3.8Mc/s end of the band, and around 133ft for the 3.5Mc/s end of the band. A "middle" length will easily allow satisfactory working through the whole band.

When the aerial is bent, as in Fig. 2, the actual total length of top and down lead needs to be a little longer. For average purposes, 132ft to 136ft will be satisfactory. Current and voltage distribution will then be approximately as in Figs. 1 and 2. Should the actual length vary somewhat from these figures, the resultant reactance can be tuned out at the transmitter end, and effective operation still obtained. Longer wires may, of course, be used, when space permits. For example, 266ft would be approximately full-wave at 3.6Mc/s, and would thus be working on its second harmonic, on this frequency.

For the actual aerial, 14 s.w.g. hard-drawn wire is often used. About two insulators can be used each end, with cord or wire from the house, pole, or other supports.

#### Impedance Matching

The end-fed Hertz is high impedance, as explained, and thus needs a high impedance feed point. Many popular transmitters employ a  $\pi$ -output circuit, as shown in Fig. 3. This allows an impedance transformation from the value to the aerial.

Standard formulae will give the impedance transformation from input to output, for known values of C1, L1, and C2, but it is sufficient to know that changing from a high to a lower impedance requires that C1 be smaller than C2.

From the point of view of simplicity, it is highly convenient to attach the aerial directly to the out-put point shown in Fig. 3. Capacitor C2 will then usually have to be at quite a low value. It may, in fact, be found that C2 has to be opened so far that resonance can no longer be reached by means of C1. If so, one solution is to increase the value of C1, or to add another condenser of suitable high voltage rating in parallel with it.

In some transmitters it may be inconvenient to increase C1. If so, an external means of obtaining the necessary high impedance output for the aerial can be used. One such method is shown in Fig. 4. This is a reversed  $\pi$  network, C1 being large, and C2 small. For C1, a standard 2-gang 500pF broadcast receiver condenser will be satisfactory. C2 should resemble C1 in Fig. 3. That is, have wide plate spacing (for other than low power) and be of about 140pF to 250pF capacity. Coil L1 is resonant at the operating frequency. It is now possible to leave C2 in Fig. 3 at

fairly high capacity, and difficulties in obtaining resonance with C1 in the P.A. output circuit will then no longer arise. C1 in Fig. 4 is adjusted to moderate capacity, and C2 set to obtain resonance. It will be noted that if the coupler in Fig. 4 is closely wired to the  $\pi$  circuit in Fig. 3, the two large capacity condensers are in parallel. In these circumstances it is sometimes possible to omit C1 in Fig. 4.

Another method of matching the low impedance transmitter output to the high impedance aerial is

shown in Fig. 5. The coil is tuned to resonance. Loading can be adjusted by tapping the antenna down the coil, by changing the number of turns on the link, or by adjusting the loading controls on the transmitter. The latter should, however, usually be set for fairly low impedance. That is, C2 in Fig. 3 at fairly high capacity.

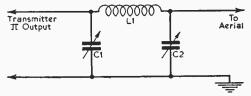


Fig. 4 (above).—A coupling circuit for transforming to a high impedance.

Fig. 5 (below).—A second tank for impedance matching.

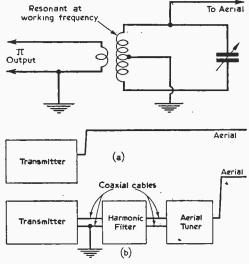


Fig. 6.—Two methods of connecting the aerial.

#### Harmonic Suppression

The method of feeding the aerial directly from the transmitter is shown at "A" in Fig. 6. When C2 is reduced to a low value, to obtain loading of the high impedance aerial, the harmonic suppres-sion becomes poor. If harmonic interference is not caused, this form of working may be adopted, for its convenience.

If harmonic interference arises, it may prove sufficient to use one of the circuits in Figs. 4 and 5. These provide some harmonic rejection themselves. They also allow the transmitter  $\pi$  tank to work into a low impedance, which improves its harmonic suppression.

If harmonics remain troublesome, it is usual to add a harmonic filter between transmitter and aerial tuner, as at "B" in Fig. 6. Such filters are normally designed to work in a low impedance line. and cannot be included in series with the aerial, at "A".

(Continued on page 78)

#### PRACTICAL WIRELESS





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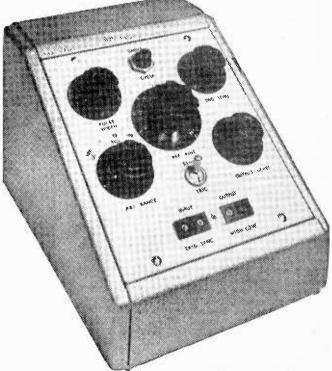
### NEW PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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This pulse generator has been developed by Winston Electronics Ltd., Shepperton, Middlesex.



The Winston portable trigger generator.

#### NEW TAPE RECORDERS

SOUND Tape Recorders are exhibiting their range of versatile Tape Recorders, including twin and four-track models on Stand 25 and Demonstration Room 115.

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A "Sensimatic" level recording meter is provided for precise control when recording, and a unique feature of this tape recorder is that recording and play back can be effected simultaneously, such a feature being invaluable for example for cine-commentaries and learning languages. The "Sound Master" has 3 speeds— $1\frac{2}{5}$ in.,

The "Sound Master" has 3 speeds— $1\frac{2}{5}$ in.,  $3\frac{1}{5}$ in. and  $7\frac{1}{5}$ in. per second, and four tracks give maximum tape economy. The recorder is housed in a polished wood case, which is designed to stand on top of the reflex loudspeaker system and for storage purposes is detachable and contained in the bottom of the speaker enclosure. The price is 105 guineas complete with all accessories, and the technical specification is attached. The "Sound Master" is made by Sound Tape Recorders (Electronics) Ltd., 784-788 High Road, Tottenham, London, N.17.

#### RING-TYPE LOUDSPEAKERPHONE

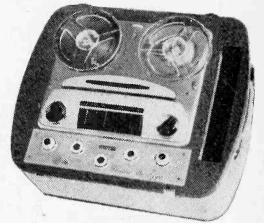
PROVIDING immediate two-way loudspeaking contact between positions without dialling, the A.E.I. "Ring Type" Loudspeakerphone is a fully intercommunicating system for offices, factories, laboratories and other similar locations. It is completely independent of a telephone switchboard and can, therefore, relieve an operator of the responsibility for connecting calls.

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supplied if a larger system is required. The "Ring Type" Loudspeakerphone operates from 200/250V A.C., 40-60c/s. Installations can be supplied to operate from 100/110V supplies or from 18V D.C. (e.g. a battery supply). Consumption of a complete installation is 70W in operation, and 35W in the "standby" condition.

Two fuses in the amplifier give protection against component damage and fire. The equipment is completely safe as the voltage on the line under all conditions never exceeds 25V D.C.

Master units are supplied in attractive cream coloured moulded plastic housings with light grey loudspeaker grilles. The dimensions of these units are: width 12in., height 64in., depth 94in. Amplifier units are "hammer" finished in dark grey and silver grey, and their dimensions are: width 104in., height 7in., depth 14in. Special Products and Radio Components Department, A.E.I. Radio and Electronic Components Division, 155, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2.

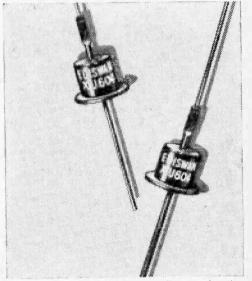


The new "Sound Master" tape recorder is a 3-speed, 4-track model.

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FIRST of a series of silicon-diffused junction type power rectifiers, the Ediswan Mazda Type XU604 is suitable for use in television receiver and similar power supplies. It is hermetically sealed in a metal can with axial leads.

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This fine 12in. loudspeaker employs a new type of double diaphragm assembly (patent application No. 40667/60). The main cone is moulded from a specially formulated soft pulp which reduces break-up effects to a minimum. Higher frequencies are radiated by a one piece tweeter cone with its edge supported on foam plastic to avoid resonance.

SUPER 12/RS/DD Specification Fundamental Resonance Frequency Range Flux Density Total Flux Iain, dia, Centre Pole Aluminium Voice Coil Impedance Max. Input

25-30 c/s 20 c/s-15 kc/s 17,000 gauss 190,000 maxwells

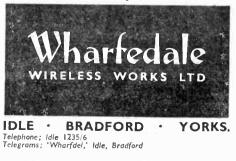
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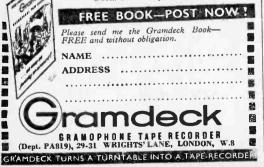
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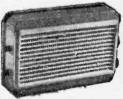


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as loud as local. Your easy build diagrams helped a lot . . . my first attempt."—H.S., Penzance, Cornwall (poor reception area).

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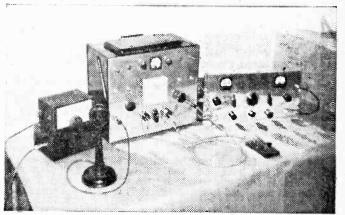


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# AN ALL BAND 75 W



## TRANSMITTER

(Continued from page 1094 of the April issue)

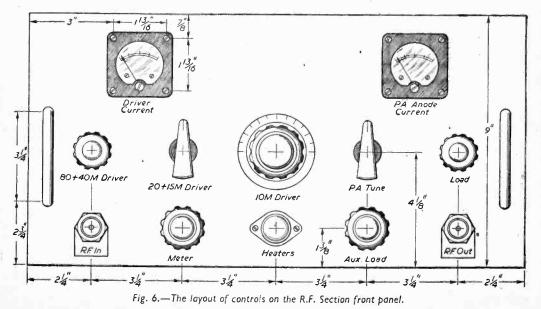
By G. Favour

HE H.T. output passes through the low H.T. switch to L.F.C.I, C1 and C2 ( $8 + 16\mu$ F). This voltage supplies all stages except the P.A. One section of transmit/receive switching paralleled by the net switch applies voltage to the VFO. The mains to T2 may be connected to the 200V tap to increase the output. This works perfectly, and never causes even slight heating on full load. The H.T. secondary winding is connected to the metal rectifiers, the centre tap being left disconnected. This bridge rectifier system enables the voltage across the whole of the winding to be rectified, giving about 750V output. The H.T. output

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passes through the high H.T. switch and transmit/receive switch to the smoothing circuit L.F.C.2, C3, C4, C5 and C6. Since high capacity, high voltage condensers are expensive, small surplus electrolytics are used in series, halving the capacity and doubling the working voltage. Each pair should be identical, new stock, and one of the pair have a thick insulating covering. The high H.T. output goes only to the 807 anode.

The 12V output from T3 is connected to a small 1A bridge rectifier. The D.C. (unsmoothed) output is switched either to the relay or the charging terminals by the second section of the Tx/chargeswitch. The insulated terminal may be made by putting a rubber grommet in the hole first.



The keying switch is the old 1154 function switch with all wafers except the front one removed. When only the oscillator is being keyed, it earths the driver cathode and connects the VFO screen to the key contact; when oscillator and drive are keyed, the driver cathode connection is broken, and connected to the front contact; when driver alone is keyed, the back contact connection is broken.

The 'phone/C.W. switch earths the front contact, disconnects the back contact, and, applies H.T. to the speech amplifier when in the 'phone position.

#### Meters

The meter M1 which may be switched to read grid current and both H.T. voltages. is also ex 1154. The internal thermocouple was removed, and the coil connected to the terminals. The FSD receive. The earthy end of the existing R.F. (and I.F. if necessary) receiver gain control is disconnected from earth and taken, together with the power leads to the four-pin Jones socket. If the receiver has a power unit of its own, only two leads need be taken to it.

#### Speech Amplifier

The speech amplifier is quite conventional, employing one pentode and one triode-connected pentode. Alternative input circuits are given for moving coil, or crystal microphone inputs. The prototype uses a moving coil microphone (ex headphones) mounted on a lamp stand with a small transistor amplifier in the base, but it works perfectly without this amplifier if the gain is turned up further. The output from V3 is passed through screened wire to a section of the

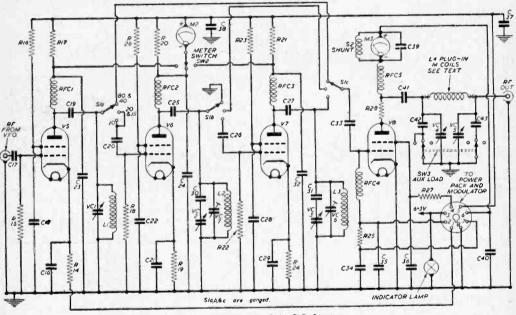


Fig. 7 .- The circuit of the R.F. Section.

was found to be around 500µA, although this may vary with transmitters. Since the resistance could not be determined accurately, the shunt and series resistance could not be calculated correctly. To make the shunt S1, a testmeter was wired in series with the meter, and the resistance of the shunt altered until the FSD was 15mA. H.T. should be switched off, while adjustments are made, to avoid damage to the meter. Great care should also be taken to prevent contact with the nearby metal rectifiers which are at H.T. potential even when both H.T. switches are off. It is safest temporarily to disconnect the leads from the secondary of T2. The H.T. voltage indicated on the meter is only required to be qualitative, to indicate the presence of short circuits, blown fuses, etc., so a calibrated scale need not be made.

The receiver listen-through control is a 10k wirewound potentiometer which is short circuited on 'phone/C.W. switch. The grid of V4A is connected to this output on phone, and acts as a positively biased direct-coupled amplifier. In the more usual series gate circuit where the standing carrier is well below the peak output, some distortion is caused by rectification in this stage, but with low biasing voltage, and the grid leak returned to earth instead of cathode, this is eliminated. V4B acts as an infinitely variable resistance supplying screen voltage to the P.A. On C.W. with the key up, V4A is positively biased, causing partial P.A. cut-off. Application of drive causes negative biasing, giving full screen voltage. A small neon in this circuit might give more positive control, but this has not been tried.

The power unit should not be operated without a load, with H.T. switches on, as voltage surges may break down the insulation of the electrolytics. (Continued on page 81)

66

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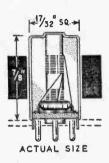
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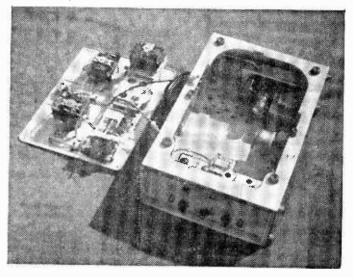
# A Versatile TAPE RECORDER

CONSTRUCTING THE CABINET

By D. L. Woolley

(Continued from page 1126 of the April issue)

HE cabinet described here is easy to make, but a commercially built cabinet can be used if of a suitable size. If such a cabinet is used, the amplifier may be mounted with the front panel horizontal and reduced in size. It cannot be made less than  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep unless care is taken not to allow the tops of the valves to catch on anything, but it can be made shorter, say to 8½ in. or 9in. For a wider tape-deck, the front panel can be up to 13in. wide. The layout of the components remains the same for any size of panel down to the absolute minimum. Details of the home-made cabinet are given in Figs. 23 to 28. Care must be taken to make all parts of the cabinet square before gluing. Simple joints are used, but these can be elaborated by more proficient woodworkers, as long as



the cabinet dimensions remain the same.

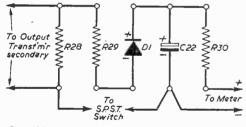
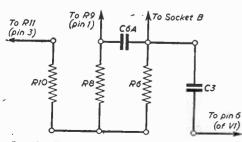
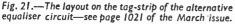


Fig. 20.—Layout of the record-level indicator components—see page 899 of the February issue and page 1075 of the April issue.

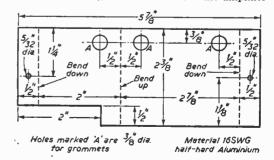


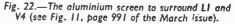


#### Finishing

The cabinet can be finished in a variety of ways; the simplest being varnish, or paint. Contact plastic is the most convenient, although the original was finished in paint, with the front panel, mains input panel and speaker grille painted to match the tape-deck: the rest of the cabinet being a light pastel green. Whichever method of finishing the box is chosen, the wood surface must be well prepared.

Expanded aluminium grille was used for the loudspeaker cut-out and to cover ventilation holes drilled in the base panel of the cabinet. Ventilation holes should be drilled under the rectifier valve and the tape-deck drive motors. A removable ventilation grille is fitted above the amplifier





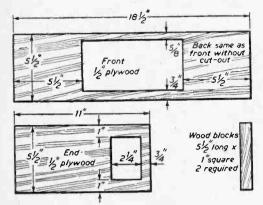


Fig. 23.—Constructional details of the end, front and back.

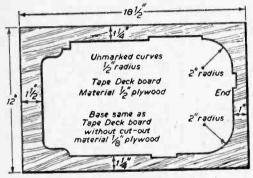


Fig. 24 .- The tape-deck supporting board.

to enable the valves to be withdrawn without taking the recorder to pieces.

Fastenings for the cabinet can be of any neat, reliable kind—split-hinges were used to allow the lid to be removed entirely. The handle is fitted last of all in a position that enables the recorder to be lifted without being unbalanced.

The amplifier, power-pack, mains input panel and loudspeaker are now fitted, using wood-screws (Fig. 27). Power leads from the power-pack to the amplifier are cut and connectors fitted. These enable the amplifier to be removed without the power-pack. The record-playback and erase heads

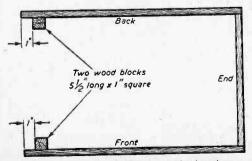


Fig. 25 .- The end, front and back are glued as shown.

are now connected to two lengths of coaxial cable fitted with coaxial plugs, of sufficient length to reach from the amplifier to tape-deck when the latter is in position. The mains supply to the deck is taken, via a connector, from the switch on the mains input panel.

(Continued on page 78)

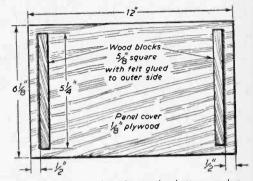


Fig. 26.—Felt glued to the wooden battens, makes the front panel a push-fit.

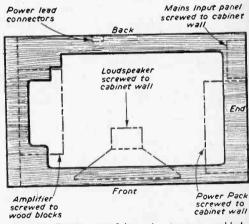


Fig. 27.—The position of the various parts, assembled in the cobinet.

Lid of thin flexible plywood, bent round end pieces and secured with glue and panel pins

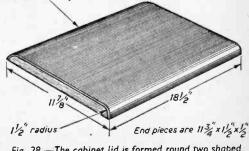


Fig. 28.—The cabinet lid is formed round two shaped battens.

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May, 1961



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## 'S' METERS — CIRCUITS AND CALIBRATION

## By J. B. Dance

ORMALLY, 'S' meters are intended to give only a very approximate indication or comparison of signal strength and also serve a useful purpose as tuning meters. The signal must be amplified before it can operate an 'S' meter, but because the gain of all receivers varies with frequency, a signal input of a certain voltage at one frequency

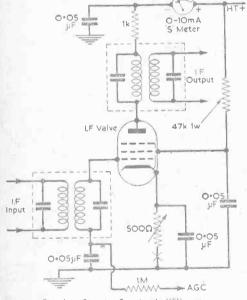


Fig. 1 .- Circuit of a simple "S" meter.

will not normally give the same deflection of the  ${}^{\circ}S^{\circ}$  meter as a signal of the same strength but of a different frequency. Within any one amateur band, however, an  ${}^{\circ}S^{\circ}$  meter in a properly aligned receiver gives a fairly accurate comparison of signal strengths.

## Principle of Operation

All common 'S' meter circuits operate from the AGC line. They depend on the fact that the AGC bias increases with increasing signal input from the aerial. The meter to be used as an 'S' meter cannot merely be connected directly from the AGC line to earth, as the internal resistance of the source of the AGC line voltage is usually of the order of 1M and the meter would therefore effectively short-circuit the AGC line. Also the AGC line voltage is too small to operate a high resistance voltmeter.

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Some form of valve circuit which has a high input impedance is required. The simplest and most economical method of feeding the 'S' meter involves the use of one of the existing I.F. (or R.F.) valves to which AGC is applied. The meter is included in the anode or cathode circuit of the valve and is operated by the AGC voltage which has been amplited by the valve. The scale of dB indications is not evenly spread out owing to the variable- $\mu$  properties of the I.F. valve. A separate valve fed from the AGC line may be used, if desired, to give a rather more useful scale

In all of the circuits to be described the component values shown for the I.F. amplifiers are suitable for the 6K7 or EF39 types of valve. If an EF93 (or 6BA6) is used, the value of the cathode resistor could be reduced to about  $68\Omega$  in order to obtain more gain.

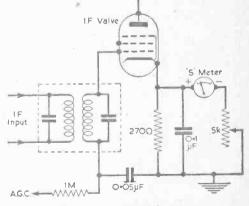


Fig. 2.- A circuit using a 1mA meter.

## **Economical Circuits**

One of the simplest possible 'S' meter circuits is shown in Fig. 1. The meter could either be placed in the anode circuit as shown or alternatively at the point marked with a cross in the cathode circuit. In either case the performance will be very similar. Alternatively, if it is desired to use a 0-1mA meter, the circuit shown in Fig. 2 may be used.

As the signal strength increases, the AGC voltage becomes more negative. This not only reduces the gain of the receiver but also reduces the anode and screen currents of the I.F. valve. An increase of signal strength therefore results in a decrease in the current passing through the meter. A large deflection of the meter occurs when the signal strength is small. This is a disadvantage of this type of circuit. In order to arrange that the meter shall deflect towards the right as the signal strength increases, special

LE

Input !

meters have been used in which the needle is on the right-hand side at zero current and moves to the left as the current increases. Such meters are quite expensive and therefore some constructors have used an ordinary meter in an inverted position in order to obtain a left to right reading with increasing signal.

#### **Bridge Circuits**

Simple bridge circuits can be employed with ordinary meters so

that they read in a forward direction. An example is shown in Fig. 3 in which the bridge is in the anode circuit of one of the I.F. amplifiers. This circuit can be redrawn as a bridge in which the anode resistance of the I.F. valve is one arm; it varies with the changes of AGC voltage.

varies with the changes of AGC voltage. It is quite easy to add the 'S' meter circuit of Fig. 3 externally to an existing receiver. There are only three connections between the receiver and the meter, namely earth, H.T. positive and the H.T. supply to the I.F. valve. The parts which can conveniently be placed in the meter case outside the main receiver are shown within the dotted lines in Fig 3.

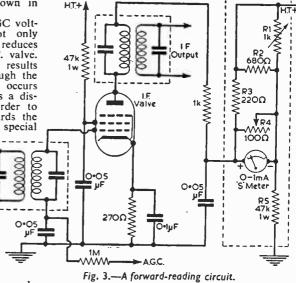
#### Preliminary Adjustments

The circuit of Fig. 3 should be adjusted as follows before use. First the I.F. valve should be removed and the resistor R4 adjusted for full scale deflection. Then the valve should be replaced and the resistor R1 adjusted with no signal input to the receiver so that current does not pass through the meter. The bridge is then balanced, and if a signal is applied to the input, the increase of the negative AGC voltage will cause the anode resistance of the valve to increase and the bridge to become unbalanced. The current passing through the meter depends on the degree of the unbalance which in turn depends on the signal strength.

No matter how strong the signal, the meter cannot be deflected off the scale, as the initial adjustment for maximum deflection was made at zero anode current (i.e. the I.F. valve was removed) and the strongest signal cannot produce enough negative AGC voltage to reduce the anode current of the I.F. valve to zero.

### **'S' Meter Valves**

Instead of using an I.F. amplifier valve controlled by the AGC it is possible to use an additional 'S' meter valve to provide the current



required to operate the 'S' meter. Such a circuit is shown in Fig. 4. A 0-1mA or a 0-2mAmeter should be used in this circuit. R1 should be adjusted so that the meter is fully deflected when the 'S' meter valve, V1, has been removed. The valve should then be replaced and the AGC line shorted to ground whilst the cathode resistor, R2, is adjusted to give zero reading on the meter. It is claimed that this circuit gives a linear dB scale; the distance between each 'S' point on the meter scale is constant.

#### **Double Triode Circuit**

Another good circuit is shown in Fig. 5. This employs a 12AU7 double triode which obtains its input from the cathode of one of the AGC controlled I.F. valves. The internal anode resistance of the two triodes and the cathode resistors form a bridge circuit. When an input voltage is applied to the first triode, its anode resistance is altered and the bridge is thrown out of balance. The anode resistance of V1(b) remains constant.

Before use, R2 is adjusted to balance the bridge at zero signal so that no current passes through the meter. The connection to the anode of V1(a)is then removed and R1 is adjusted for full scale deflection. When the anode of V1(a) is reconnected, the meter should deflect in a forward direction according to the strength of the signal being received.

#### Calibration By Ear

Various people have different ideas about what they mean by, say, S9. It is doubtful whether a really accurate calibration is worthwhile. Those who do not possess a signal generator which incorporates an accurately calibrated attenuator can best calibrate their 'S' meter by ear as described below. This method is probably as good as any.

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

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## PRACTICAL WIRELESS

May, 1961



First check that. with no signal input to the receiver, the 'S' meter reads only a little above zero. Then tune in a number of strong local amateur signals, noting their meter readings. There should be virtually no background "sharsh' noise on these signals. The average 'S' meter reading of the weakest signal giving no background noise is about S8 or S9.

Then tune in a weak signal (preferably a fairly local one which does not fade) in which the level of background noise is very high so that the signal can only just be heard. The meter reading will corre-

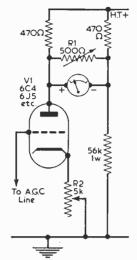


Fig. 4.—A circuit which requires an extra valve.

spond to about S3. Before marking this point on the meter as S3, check with a number of other weak signals.

S6 should now correspond to a reasonably strong signal with a fairly small amount of background hiss. Finally all of the remaining 'S' points should be marked on the scale. The markings 10dB and 20dB above S9 will probably be spaced a little farther from each other than the 'S' points.

### Accurate Calibration

The following method of calibration may be employed by those who have a good quality signal generator with a calibrated attenuator.

It is first necessary to choose the input level in microvolts which will correspond to S9. This will normally be between about 50 and 200 $\mu$ V; 100 $\mu$ V is a good figure for normal amateur work.

The R.F. gain control should be fully advanced and a signal fed into the aerial terminal of the receiver from the generator. The signal should be exactly  $100\mu V$  or whatever level is chosen as corresponding to S9. This allows the S9 point to be marked on the scale. The generator input is then halved whilst the S8 point is being found, halved again for S7 and so on until the calibration is completed. This gives a cali-bration in steps of 6dB per S point at the frequency of calibration. Now, 10dB above S9

is the point at which the input voltage is 3.16 times greater than at S9; this point can therefore also be marked using the generator. Above S9, 20dB is 3.16 times greater than 10dB above S9 and so on.

However accurately the receiver has been calibrated at one frequency, this calibration will not be exactly correct at other frequencies, especially on other bands. It is thus very doubtful whether calibration by means of a signal generator is of any more value than calibration by ear. Even at the one frequency of accurate calibration, the accuracy will decrease with time, as the receiver goes slightly out of alignment and as the gain of the valves alters.

If desired, the meter can be switched to perform other functions, e.g. measuring receiver H.T. and other currents and voltages so that any faults in the receiver could be found more quickly. It could also be switched to show the percentage modulation of the signal being received.

#### Use a Good Aerial for SWL

Simple receivers, such as 1, 2 or 3 valve TRF sets, are often used for S.W. listening. With these, a good aerial can make a great deal of difference to reception. This is very noticeable on 80m and top band (160m). Here, a TRF receiver, or even a sensitive superhet, fitted with a short aerial, may be tuned over the band and give only very poor results. The band may seem dead, or may seem to carry local stations only. If a long aerial is substituted, the band can become alive with dozens of transmissions which were previously unheard. For 160m, anything under 80ft or 100ft of aerial can be considered rather short. For shorter wavelengths, shorter wires are satisfactory.

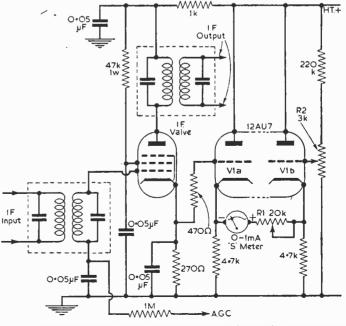


Fig. 5.—A circuit which employs a double triode.

# Short-wave Listeners' Log-7

HOUGH conditions on the amateur bands vary considerably, according to season, time of day, and other factors, each band has its own particular characteristics. As a guide to the short wave listener who has only recently become interested in this form of reception, the band characteristics may be listed as follows:

#### 169m

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Sparingly used, and mostly for fairly local contacts. The listener is most likely to hear stations working within a range of 50 miles or so. With darkness, the range increases, and transatlantic contacts have been made, but it is not very usual to hear distant stations on this band.

#### 80m

Very popular for daylight contacts up to a few hundred miles. During daylight hours it is unusual not to hear at least a few stations working. At weekends, the hand is often very fully occupied. As darkness falls, European stations often build up greatly in strength, and few local transmissions will be heard. Some activity is usual very early (before 7a.m.); from about midnight to early morning some long-distance contacts are possible.

## 40m

During daylight, skip may give best reception at a distance of some hundreds of miles, though ground wave or short range signals may be heard from locals. When darkness falls, the number

TRANSMITTING TOPICS

END-FED TRANSMITTING AERIALS

(Continued from page 58)

#### Feedback Prevention

The end-fed Hertz has high voltage at the point where it is joined to the transmitter. Good insulation should be used here, and the lead should be taken away from the equipment as directly as possible. If near microphone or leads, or early stages of the transmitter, feedback may cause oscillation, or other troubles. This is particularly likely with fairly high power.

If this arises, and cannot be prevented by normal means (e.g. screened microphone leads, and reasonable separation of circuits) then an aerial coupler may be added. This coupler can use the circuit in Fig. 4, or that in Fig. 5. A few feet of coaxial cable are used between transmitter and tuner, and the tuner is situated a little clear of the transmitter, near the entry point of the aerial. The high impedance, voltage fed wire will then be well clear of the microphone, etc. of powerful commercial stations in or near the band makes the reception of amateur stations difficult. Through midnight and up to early morning, long-distance reception may cover most continents.

#### 20m

This band is usually good for very long-distance contacts. Results depend a lot on sunspot activity. During the hours of darkness, world-wide reception may be possible. Sometimes during summer, the band gives good results during the afternoon. Results tend to change from hour to hour, or day to day. This is the highest frequency band which many popular "all-wave" receivers will cover, and if often worth checking for possible long-distance reception.

#### 15m

Conditions may result in no signals being heard on this band at some hours, or for several days at a time. But it is expected that changes in the sunspot cycle will make this band very useful for long-distance reception during coming years. At present it can furnish very good long-distance results, when conditions are good.

#### 10m

This band is also very variable, but can also give excellent reception over very great distances. When the band is usable, the listener may hear many distant countries. There are also periods when the band seems quite dead, but conditions can change rapidly during the day.

# A Versatile TAPE RECORDER

## (Continued from page 70)

Now, mount the tape deck into the base of the cabinet, using four rubber buffers to mount the deck off from the top surface of the motor-board. Four chrome-plated screws secure the deck in place.

In making the connections from the tape-deck to the amplifier, only one earth connection must be used. The metal parts of the deck are bonded together by the manufacturer and the one earth connection should be made via the outer screening of the record/playback head coaxial cable. If multiple earths are used, there is a possibility of a high hum level on playback.

Final testing can now take place. A shorting plug for socket A can be made from a coaxial plug with the centre connector soldered to a piece of bare copper wire which is then shorted to the body of the plug.

Experience will soon show the correct indicator reading for good quality recordings.

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## PRACTICAL WIRELESS

May, 1961



Club News

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## REPORTS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

#### **BURY RADIO SOCIETY**

Hon. Sec: G. Winter, 269 Lever Street, Radcliffe, Manchester, Lancashire.

As from April 11th, meetings will be held at the Knowsley Hotel. Kay Gardens, Bury. Future Events

April 11th—My First 18 Months by G3NNW. Mav 9th—Junk Sale.

FLINTSHIRE RADIO SOCIETY FLINTSHIRE RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec: L. W. Barnes, I Bryn Coed Park, Rhyl. At the Annual General Meeting the following officers and committee were elected; President F. G. Southworth, GW2CCU, Chairman H. T. Jones, GW3NQP. Hon. Sec. L. W. Barnes, Hon. Treasurer W. Davies. Committee, J. T. Lawrence, GW3JGA/T, J. Nicholas, GW3OIN, K. Schofield, GW3KYT. Euture meetings will be beld at the Bea Hotel on the Inti-

Future meetings will be held at the Bee Hotel on the last Monday in each month.

MITCHAM AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec: M. Pharaoh, G3LCH I Madeira Road, Mitcham. The Annual General Meeting was held on 24th February and was well attended. The RSGB Affiliated Societies contest was held on February 4th and 5th. The G5UX key award can be won by any transmitting member of the Society. Points are scored on the hears of one point are country worked on any of the on the bases of one point per country worked on any of the amateur bands. Proof of contact is not required but inspection of station log entries may be required. Scores should be sent to be then Score for instance in the New Score should be sent to ol station log entries may be required. Scores should be the Hon. Sec., for inclusion in the News letter each month. Future Events: April 7th—Junk Sale. April 21st—National Field Day arrangements. May 21st—National Field Day dummy run.

June 3rd/4th—National Field Day. June 30th—National Field Day post-mortem.

NORTHERN MOBILE RADIO RALLY Hon. Sec: J. Charlesworth, G3IJC, 23 Craven Lane, Gomersal, Leeds.

The fourth Northern Mobile Radio Rally will again be held at Harewood House, (near Leeds) on Sunday May 28th.

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Hardwood TEAN TEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY Hon. Sec: F. D. Thom, G3NKT, 12 Willow Road Redhill, Surrey. The Annual Dinner was held on February 11th, when 35 members and friends were present. The G8KW Trophy for the The Annual Dinner was need on reordary Irtu, when 35 members and friends were present. The G8KW Trophy for the first place in the Open Class of the constructional contest was awarded to BRS 20809. The "XYL" Cup donated by mothers and wives of members was awarded to R. Wells for the Junior Class. Informal meetings are now being held on the first Thurs-day in the month at The Tower, Redhill, for seniors, and at the homes of transmitting members in rotation on the first Saturday in the month for juniors.

Future Event: April 15th-G3BCM will demonstrate his "Top to Ten" Transceiver.

THE SLADE RADIO SOCIETY 2 Orchard Road, Erdington Birmingham 23.

Meetings are held at the Church House High Street, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

Future Events: May 5th—Application of Electronic Devices in Industry by W. and T. Avery.

May 19th-Map Reading for Direction Finding by D. S. Chaoman.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec: E. Brailsford. 15 Ayrsome Walk Cantley, Doncaster. The R.A.E. course being held at the Doncaster Technical College is proving very popular and has 16 students. Meetings are held at the Palace Buffet, Silver Street, Doncaster every second and fourth Thursday in the month at 8 p.m.

Future Events:

April 13th—Ragchew. April 17th—Talk on Receivers by Joe Clennell G3HNJ. May 11th—Free Night. May 25th—Supersonics by L. Bennett G2BOJ.

In the near future the society will be operational under its own call sign.

#### 75W TRANSMITTER ALL BAND AN (Continued from page 66)

#### **R.F.** Section

The input from the VFO is by airspaced coaxial cable through a Pye elbow and socket. A short piece of similar cable goes from the input

socket to a point adjacent to V5 valveholder. Since the input is at high impedance, this cable causes some mismatch, but this is not important if the length is made about four feet.

	COMPON			VI 5R4GY or 5Z4G V3 VR65 (SP61) V2 VR65 (SP61) V4 6F8 or 65N7
FC	OR POWER UNIT	AND	MODULATOR	$MI = 500 \mu A FSD$ (see text)
	(Fig. 1, page 1091	of th	e April issue)	TI 350-0-350V, 5V 2A or 6.3V 2A with series
RI	lk ∄W	R9	220k 🗄 W	resistor (RX)
R2	IM <sup>1</sup> <sub>4</sub> W	R10	220k 🗄 W	T2 350-0-350V, 6-3V 4A
R3	270k 1/W	RH	100k 1 W	T3 12V 1A charger transformer
R4	47k 1 W	RI2	about 1.5M 1W	MRI Bridge rectifier rated at 700V, 150mA.
R5	180k 1/W	<b>R</b> 13	about 700k $\frac{1}{4}W$	MR2 > (This may be made up from four half-
R6	Ik 1W		3.3M 1W	MR3 wave types each rated at 350V)
R7	22k <sup>2</sup> <del>1</del> W		100k 1 W	MR4 12V 1A rectifier
R8	220k 1W		0.8 \Q (see text)	3 Mazda octal valveholders
	see text			3 International octal valveholders
	8 F 450VW elec	<b>C9</b>	8 //F 250VW elec	1 4-pin Jones socket
C2	16 µF 450 VW elec			2 valvebases (plugs)
	8 µF 450VW elec			22-pole, 3-way switches
	8 F 450VW elec			5 1-pole, 1-way toggle switches
C5	16 µF 450VW elec		100pF mica	1 2-pole, 2-way toggle switch
C6	16 µF 450VW elec			I single contact jack socket
			o or procerdance	I double contact jack socket
C8	8 µF 25VW elec		0.01 "E ceramic	Aluminium knobs, hardware, chart frame,
VRI			lok w.w.	wire, etc
LFCI	10H. 250mA			FI 250mA F2 150mA

(To be continued)



The Editor does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by his correspondences

Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their technical difficulties, we regret that we are unable to supply diagrams or provide instructions for modifying commercial or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details for receivers described in these pages. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO ANSWER QUERIES OVER THE TELE-PHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page iii of the cover.

#### MODULATION

SIR,—During the last two months, I have received an overwhelming number of replies to my queries raised in the January PRACTICAL WIRELESS. All the letters except two were against the motion; one sent me a circuit of a transmitter based on my lines that "really worked" and the other pointed out its applications in the field of SSB, and in high power B/C installations where the problem of producing several kW of audio for modulation purposes is by no means small.

For the benefit of any readers who may want to know the values of the tuning capacitor referred to in my original letter, they are 50—5pF, 50—5pF, 35—5pF.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who took the trouble to write such an interesting selection of letters to me. -J. R. MILLER (Somerset).

#### RADIO HOGS

SIR,—May I heartily endorse the comments about the use of pocket radios made by Thermion in February PRACTICAL WIRELESS? These people are on holiday to enjoy themselves

These people are on holiday to enjoy themselves as much as they can without breaking any law. Nobody else matters! They are the only people who count (or so they seem to think!) and if they inconvenience anybody else, that doesn't matter.

inconvenience anybody else, that doesn't matter. These "radio-hogs" have their radio sets so loud that everybody (except the stone deaf) in the vicinity is compelled to listen to the personal choice of the owner of the offending set. The choice is not, as a rule, a very good one. It is quite possible to walk along the sea-shore in August and hear the whole of a radio programme without missing one demisemiquaver as one is never very far from a radio blaring the strains of some jazz band. It is surely time that the big-wigs concerned realised this and did something about these selfish people. May their valves burn out and their loudspeakers disintegrate!—D. A. PICKETT London S.W.4).

#### RADIO MOSCOW

SIR,—I think T. Roeves (March issue) is wrong when he says that Moscow broadcasts on 1734m, because the Voice of America broadcasts jazz on this wavelength at 23·15 G.M.T. every day. On the same wavelength it also broadcasts news and discussion programmes in English and in a number of foreign languages.—J. LOWRIE (Edinburgh).

#### CRYSTAL SETS

SIR,—I have read with interest the various letters sent in by readers concerning crystal sets and the exceptional reception obtained.

However, if one gave thought to the subject it may not be so remarkable as it may seem.

I possess a crystal receiver and am able to receive (under favourable conditions) Radio Moscow, Voice of America, Luxembourg and many other transmissions, including Morse. The reason for this is as follows.

It is a well known fact that crystal sets only make the more powerful transmissions audible such as the Home Service; depending where you are situated and depending on the coil, e.g. 92 turns on a 1<sup>‡</sup>in. former with capacitor at approximately 490-500pF; now when the capacitor is at minimum capacitance, the natural wavelength of the aerial in conjunction with the coil is obtained, which the diode converts to an audio signal.

Radio Moscow may be beaming a transmission to the U.K. and under favourable conditions will be at maximum strength, ideal for the crystal receiver to pick up clearly. Owing to atmospherics and the influence the ionosphere has on reception, it may fade out completely to be taken up by, say, the Voice of America, which in its turn drifts out for another station taking prominence such as Radio Luxembourg; and so it goes on. In fact this "exceptional reception" is a perfectly natural phenomenon based on the fact that crystal receivers when operating on a natural aerial wavelength only make audible the strongest signal. It all depends on the natural wavelength of the aerial and coil and conditions between the crystal receiver and radiating transmitter mast.—A. Dyson (Sheffield).

## QUARTZ CRYSTAL ETCHING

SIR,—I have read with interest an article in PRACTICAL WIRELESS entitled "Quartz Crystal Etching", by J. B. Dance.

I feel that the author of this article has not stressed strongly enough the dangers of using the chemical, ammonium bifluoride, for the purpose of etching silica. He points out the danger of using hydrofluoric acid without stating that ammonium bifluoride etches by virtue of its dissociation into ammonium fluoride and hydrofluoric acid thus:-

#### $NH_4 HF_2 \rightleftharpoons NH_4F+HF$

and therefore in solution ammonium bifluoride is potentially just as dangerous as hydrofluoric acid. To the chemist hydrofluoric acid is not a strong acid as measured by its dissociation constant: nevertheless it is extremely active chemically owing to its tendency to replace oxygen and complex formation. It is therefore *extremely dangerous* to





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handle and it is essential that protective clothing and eye shields should be worn when handling hydrofluoric solutions, especially as this acid has the insidious property of eating through flesh without any initial warning that acid has contaminated the skin. Such wounds, to my certain knowledge, are difficult to treat and take a considerable time to heal, even with hospital treatment.

In my opinion, it would be advisable for nontechnical readers of PRACTICAL WIRELESS to leave such a potentially dangerous chemical as ammonium bifluoride strictly alone,—it would be safer and cheaper in the long run to buy the required crystal and keep one's fingers and eyes intact.— G. P. MITCHELL B.Sc. G3OFJ (Wallington).

## A PLEA FOR PLASTICS

SIR,—Why are wax and pitch still used in the manufacture of some components? The only answer seems to be that they are both highly "moistureproof". They are also extremely thermoplastic, and are thus very messy to use. Why cannot plastics take their place? With such an excellent range of plastics at the manufacturers' disposal, there is no apparent excuse. The smaller the component, the larger the case weight. or so it would seem. This could be avoided by using more plastic and less metal etc.—N. J. CORNFORD (Beaconsfield).

## THE 4W AMPLIFIER

SIR,—A friend and I both built the 4-watt amplifier described in the January 1961 issue. On completion, we both experienced the same fault. This had the effect of producing "beating" at a constant rate in the loudspeaker. By experiment, it was found that by connecting the 270k resistor directly across the treble control, the fault cleared.

We now have good results on both VHF/F.M. radio and with a record player.

This may interest other constructors.—J. B. C. (R.A.F., Scotland).

## THE P.W. SUPERHET

SIR.—After some set-backs I have completed the construction of the P.W. Pocket Superhet Transistor Set, and I am very pleased with its performance. I derived much help in the adjustment of it from the article in the December issue. The article on "Checking Transistor Circuits" in the March issue was also of great value. I have built many sets in my time but none has given me greater pleasure or more satisfaction. It is remarkable that a set employing such a small battery can give such a loud signal.—W. LYNCH (Glasgow).

## TRANSISTOR HOLDERS

SIR.—In reply to Mr. E. Krell (February), on transistor bases, I can only think that he is not very interested in his hobby. Whilst I was in Malta for a time, I had the opportunity of building a transistor radio and in the kit complete with transistors were their bases. Besides, Mr. Krell, surely as an enthusiast you must have come across a little tool called a "thermal shunt". If one of these is clipped against the base of the transistor, hardly any damage at all can be caused by heat from the soldering iron.—E. Avery (Fareham).

## **REFLEX CIRCUITS**

SIR.—In the days when valves were very expensive an arrangement known as reflexing became popular, as it enabled one to use a single valve for two purposes. It appears to me that the present position with transistors is parallel with the period of which I am thinking, and the use of transistor reflex circuits should be possible. Many old hands will remember the old S.T. circuits in which even two H.F. stages were reflexed for use as two audio stages, and I would think that some similar scheme would be practicable with good transistors (to avoid the disappointment and waste of time of using "surplus" transistors). Is there any "snag" in this suggestion, or is this yet another way in which the valve still holds precedence over the transistor?—G. TREEBY (Bath).

"ROADFARER" COMPETITION

S announced in the Editorial of the previous issue, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the "Roadfarer" receiver which, in the opinion of a committee, is judged to be the most efficiently constructed and presents the neatest appearance. Consolation prizes will be awarded to runners-up.

The committee will consist of the Editor and representatives of the following firms:-

Richard Allan Radio Ltd.

Jackson Bros. (London) Ltd.

Newmarket Transistors Ltd.

Osmor Radio Products Ltd.

Swindon Condenser Co. Ltd.

Readers who intend to participate in this competition should complete the coupon aand send it to:-The Editor, PRACTICAL WIRELESS, Tower House, Southampton Street, London, W.C.2.

I intend to enter my receiver in your competition, and agree to abide by the decisions of the Committee. Name Address BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Mark your envelopes "Competition" in the top left-hand corner.

DO NOT SEND IN YOUR ENTRY YET. A further announcement will appear next month.

## **RECEIVERS & COMPONENTS**

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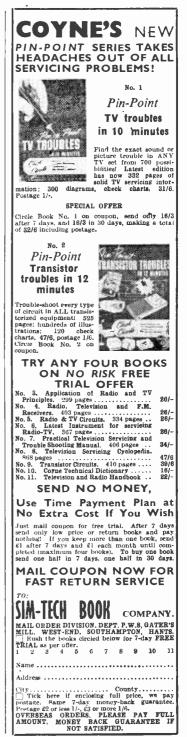
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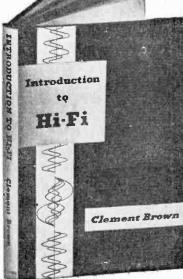
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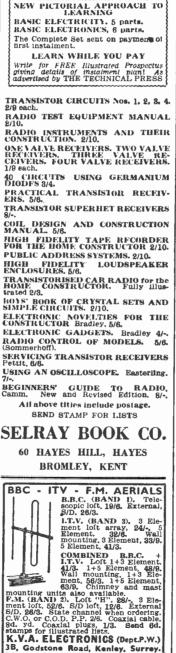
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May, 1961



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